If there were a vaccine against cancer, wouldn’t you get it for your kids?

HPV vaccine is cancer prevention. Talk to the doctor about vaccinating your 11–12 year old sons and daughters against HPV.

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens
NCI-designated Cancer Centers Urge HPV Vaccination for the Prevention of Cancer

Approximately 79 million people in the United States are currently infected with a human papillomavirus (HPV) according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and 14 million new infections occur each year. Several types of high-risk HPV are responsible for the vast majority of cervical, anal, oropharyngeal (middle throat) and other genital cancers. The CDC also reports that each year in the U.S., 27,000 men and women are diagnosed with an HPV-related cancer, which amounts to a new case every 20 minutes. Even though many of these HPV-related cancers are preventable with a safe and effective vaccine, HPV vaccination rates across the U.S. remain low.

Together we, the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Cancer Centers, recognize these low rates of HPV vaccination as a serious public health threat. HPV vaccination represents a rare opportunity to prevent many cases of cancer that is tragically underused. As national leaders in cancer research and clinical care, we are compelled to jointly issue this call to action.

According to a 2015 CDC report, only 40 percent of girls and 21 percent of boys in the U.S. are receiving the recommended three doses of the HPV vaccine. This falls far short of the goal of 80 percent by the end of this decade, set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2020 mission. Furthermore, U.S. rates are significantly lower than those of countries such as Australia (75 percent), the United Kingdom (84-92 percent) and Rwanda (93 percent), which have shown that high vaccination rates are currently achievable.

The HPV vaccines, like all vaccines used in the U.S., passed extensive safety testing before and after being approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The vaccines have a safety profile similar to that of other vaccines approved for adolescents in the U.S. Internationally, the safety of HPV vaccines has been tested and approved by the World Health Organization's Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety.

CDC recommends that boys and girls receive three doses of HPV vaccine at ages 11 or 12 years. The HPV vaccine series can be started in preteens as early as age 9 and should be completed before the 13th birthday. The HPV vaccine is more effective the earlier it is given; however, it is also recommended for young women until age 26 and young men until age 21.

The low vaccination rates are alarming given our current ability to safely and effectively save lives by preventing HPV infection and its associated cancers. Therefore, the 69 NCI-designated Cancer Centers urge parents and health care providers to protect the health of our children through a number of actions:

- We encourage all parents and guardians to have their sons and daughters complete the 3-dose HPV vaccine series before the 13th birthday, and complete the series as soon as possible in children aged 13 to 17. Parents and guardians should talk to their health care provider to learn more about HPV vaccines and their benefits.
- We encourage young men (up to age 21) and young women (up to age 26), who were not vaccinated as preteens or teens, to complete the 3-dose HPV vaccine series to protect themselves against HPV.
- We encourage all health care providers to be advocates for cancer prevention by making strong recommendations for childhood HPV vaccination. We ask providers to join forces to educate parents/guardians and colleagues about the importance and benefits of HPV vaccination.

HPV vaccination is our best defense in stopping HPV infection in our youth and preventing HPV-related cancers in our communities. The HPV vaccine is CANCER PREVENTION. More information is available from the CDC.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Talking Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>**#1 **《The HPV vaccine is unsafe》</td>
<td>Prior to the FDA licensing the HPV vaccines, nearly 60,000 men and women were studied to ensure vaccine safety and both the FDA and the CDC monitor vaccine safety continually. Recently published research looked at emergency room visits and hospitalizations for 60 days following the vaccination. The research found that more than 200 categories of illness were reviewed and in almost all cases, the condition existed prior to vaccination. Thus, getting the vaccine did not increase the likelihood of developing adverse conditions.</td>
<td>Since 2006, about <strong>70 million doses of HPV vaccines</strong> have been distributed in the US and more than 100 million doses have been given worldwide. The safety is continually monitored in 80 countries. <strong>No</strong> serious safety concerns have been identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**#2 **《The HPV vaccine is unnecessary unless you’re sexually active》</td>
<td>Vaccines are for prevention, not treatment, so they only work if given before coming in contact with a virus. Getting vaccinated against HPV before risk of exposure, such as sexual activity, is important. Research shows that younger people create more antibodies to the vaccine than those in their late teens. This means those who are vaccinated are better protected if they’re exposed to HPV in the future.</td>
<td>We vaccinate people well before they’re exposed to an infection (i.e., measles and the other recommended childhood vaccines). Similarly, we want to vaccinate people before they are exposed to HPV. The HPV vaccine produces a higher immune response in preteens than it does in older teens and young women. The vaccine prevents twice as much cervical pre-cancer when given by age 14 than it does after age 15. HPV is so common that almost everyone will be infected at some point in their lives. It is estimated that 79 million Americans are currently infected and that there are 14 million new HPV infections each year.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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1. 1...

[1] Since 2006, about 70 million doses of HPV vaccines have been distributed in the US and more than 100 million doses have been given worldwide. The safety is continually monitored in 80 countries. No serious safety concerns have been identified.

[2] Vaccines are for prevention, not treatment, so they only work if given before coming in contact with a virus. Getting vaccinated against HPV before risk of exposure, such as sexual activity, is important. Research shows that younger people create more antibodies to the vaccine than those in their late teens. This means those who are vaccinated are better protected if they’re exposed to HPV in the future.

[3] We vaccinate people well before they’re exposed to an infection (i.e., measles and the other recommended childhood vaccines). Similarly, we want to vaccinate people before they are exposed to HPV. The HPV vaccine produces a higher immune response in preteens than it does in older teens and young women. The vaccine prevents twice as much cervical pre-cancer when given by age 14 than it does after age 15. HPV is so common that almost everyone will be infected at some point in their lives. It is estimated that 79 million Americans are currently infected and that there are 14 million new HPV infections each year.
| #3 | **The HPV vaccine is only for females** | Both males and females can get HPV. It's very common – 4 out of 5 people have HPV at some point in their lives.

Although cervical cancer is the most common type of cancer caused by HPV, persistent infection also causes cancers of the tongue and the base of the tonsils. These cancers are becoming more common, especially among men, and may be more common than cervical cancer within the next 5 years. HPV can also cause penile and anal cancers affecting men.

The HPV vaccine provides protection against most of the genital cancers in men caused by HPV infection.³ | The HPV vaccine is strongly recommended for males and females.

One HPV vaccine—called Gardasil—is also for boys. This vaccine helps prevent boys from getting infected with the types of HPV than can cause cancers of the throat, penis, and anus; it also prevents genital warts. When boys are vaccinated, they are less likely to spread HPV to their current and future partners.⁵ |
| #4  | **The HPV vaccine is ineffective** | In initial clinical trials, the vaccine was given to 20,000 women ages 16–26 in 33 countries including Australia. These trials showed the vaccine is almost **100% effective** in preventing abnormalities in cells in the cervix caused by high-risk HPV types 16 and 18. Those abnormalities are a proven precursor to cervical cancer. Further clinical trials involving more than 4,000 males ages 16–26 from 18 countries showed the vaccine was 90% effective in preventing genital warts and abnormalities associated with penile cancer, and 78% effective in preventing anal disease caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18.³ | Numerous clinical trials have proven the vaccine’s effectiveness in preventing HPV-caused cervical, anal, and penile cancers, as well as genital warts. In addition, studies in the US and other countries that have introduced the HPV vaccine have shown a significant reduction in infections caused by the HPV types targeted by the vaccine.⁵ |
| #5  | **The HPV vaccine encourages sexual activity** | A recent study looked for any correlation between HPV vaccination and sexual activity-related outcomes (i.e. pregnancy, sexually transmitted infection testing or diagnosis and contraceptive counseling) over a 3 year period of time. After comparing outcomes in vaccinated vs. unvaccinated 11- and 12-year-old females, it was found that HPV vaccination during the recommended ages was not associated with an earlier onset of sexual activity or an increase in sexual activity-related outcomes (less than .01% difference between the two groups).¹² | Studies have shown there’s **no correlation** between receiving the HPV vaccine and increased rates of (or earlier engagement in) sexual activity. |
#6  **People already know about the HPV vaccine, and will ask for it if they want it**

Studies on the vaccine have shown that up to 60% of parents have no prior knowledge about the vaccine before their child’s provider educates them about it.\(^4\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People already know about the HPV vaccine, and will ask for it if they want it</th>
<th>A strong provider recommendation is the single best predictor of vaccination.(^5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **#7**  **The HPV vaccine causes serious side effects including death** | Of the 14 deaths recorded among girls and women in the (FDA) study (of the HPV vaccine), the causes included car accidents, congenital heart problems, suicide, lupus, and pneumonia and were not linked to the vaccine.\(^1\)

Globally, over **100 million doses** of the vaccine have been given in more than 120 countries, and all adverse reactions have been monitored and investigated. All vaccines can have side effects. The reactions that people have had after the HPV vaccines have been similar to those from other vaccines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The HPV vaccine causes serious side effects including death</th>
<th>The vaccine was tested in numerous clinical trials and proved to be safe, and continues to be monitored for safety. Just like other vaccines, minor swelling or redness at the site of injection can occur with the HPV vaccine. The most common side effects are pain, redness, and/or swelling at the site of injection. Very rarely, more serious side effects such as anaphylactic (allergic) reaction can occur, usually if a person is allergic to an ingredient in the vaccine such as yeast.(^3)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>#8</strong>  <strong>The HPV vaccine causes fertility issues</strong></td>
<td>Claims of HPV vaccine-induced infertility are anecdotal and not backed by research or clinical trials. The HPV vaccine can actually protect fertility by preventing gynecological problems related to the treatment of cervical cancer. It’s possible that the treatment of cervical cancer could leave a woman unable to have children. It’s also possible that treatment for cervical pre-cancer could put a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The HPV vaccine causes fertility issues</td>
<td>There are no data to suggest that getting the HPV vaccine will have a negative effect on future fertility. In fact, getting vaccinated and protecting against cervical cancer can protect a woman’s ability to get pregnant and have healthy babies.(^6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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\(^1\) [1]

\(^2\) [2]

\(^3\) [3]

\(^4\) [4]

\(^5\) [5]

\(^6\) [6]

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cancer.org  |  1.800.227.2345

The VACs project is supported in part by CDC Cooperative Agreement Number 1H23IP000953-01
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#9</th>
<th><strong>The effectiveness of the HPV vaccine wears off over time</strong></th>
<th>Recent studies have found that those who received the vaccine continued to have antibodies to the virus. There is no indication that they will decrease over time, but studies continue.</th>
<th>Current data suggest the vaccine protection is ongoing, with no sign of waning. The mechanism of immune memory has been demonstrated in women who have been vaccinated, indicating the vaccine will provide long-term immunity. If it's discovered that the immunity does wane, a booster will be recommended, similar to many other vaccines.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#10</td>
<td><strong>The HPV vaccine has not been proven to prevent HPV-related cancers</strong></td>
<td>In the trials that led to the approval of Gardasil and Cervarix, those vaccines were found to provide nearly 100% protection against persistent cervical infections with HPV types 16 and 18, plus the precancers that those persistent infections can cause. A clinical trial of Gardasil in men indicated that it can prevent anal cell changes caused by persistent infection and genital warts.</td>
<td>The vaccine has been proven, through numerous studies, to prevent the cell changes and infections that correspond with multiple HPV-caused cancers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#11</td>
<td><strong>The HPV vaccine contains harmful ingredients</strong></td>
<td>Gardasil, Gardasil-9, and Cervarix all contain ingredients that have been proven to be perfectly safe. Like the Hepatitis B and Tdap vaccines, HPV vaccines contain aluminum, which is an adjuvant that boosts the body’s immune response to the vaccine. In addition to certain vaccines, aluminum is found in breastmilk, infant formula, antacids,</td>
<td>Given the quantities of aluminum we are exposed to on a daily basis, the quantity of aluminum in vaccines is miniscule. Aluminum-containing vaccines have been used for decades and have been given to over one billion people without problem. In spring 2000, the National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO) reviewed aluminum exposure through vaccines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and numerous foods and beverages, including fruits and vegetables, beer and wine, seasonings, flour, cereals, nuts, dairy products, baby formulas, and honey. Typical adults ingest 7 to 9 milligrams of aluminum per day; whereas the HPV vaccines contain .225 milligrams of aluminum per dose.</td>
<td>and determined that no changes to vaccine recommendations were needed based on aluminum content. The Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety, part of the World Health Organization (WHO), has also reviewed studies and found no evidence of health risks that would require changes to vaccine policy.</td>
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*The VACs project is supported in part by CDC Cooperative Agreement Number 1H23IP000953-01*
References


HPV VACCINATION IS THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT MANY TYPES OF CANCER
MANY ADOLESCENTS HAVEN’T STARTED THE HPV VACCINE SERIES

NATIONWIDE
4 OUT OF 10 GIRLS ARE UNVACCINATED

Percentage of adolescent girls who have received one or more doses of HPV vaccine*

National coverage is 60%
Coverage by state:
- 49% or less
- 50-59%
- 60-69%
- 70% or greater

NATIONWIDE
6 OUT OF 10 BOYS ARE UNVACCINATED

Percentage of adolescent boys who have received one or more doses of HPV vaccine*

National coverage is 42%
Coverage by state:
- 29% or less
- 30-39%
- 40-49%
- 50% or greater

IMPROVING HPV VACCINATION RATES WILL HELP SAVE LIVES.
A high national Tdap vaccination rate of 88% shows that it is possible to achieve high HPV vaccination coverage.

*Estimated coverage with ≥1 dose of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, either quadrivalent or bivalent, among adolescents aged 13-17 years, National Immunization Survey—Teen (NIS–Teen), United States, 2014
Source: MMWR July 31, 2015

www.cdc.gov/hpv
Provider Talking Points for HPV Vaccine

Provider Response Statement

Sometimes people are diagnosed with health problems after vaccination, but this does not mean the vaccine caused the health problem – there are usually other causes. In fact, tens of millions of doses of HPV vaccine have been given safely, and most people who get the vaccine have mild side effects (like a sore arm from the shot) or no side effects at all. Not getting HPV vaccine for your child leaves them vulnerable to HPV cancers later in life. I’ve vaccinated my children (or grandchildren, etc.) and I recommend that your child begin the HPV vaccine series today.

Key Messages

- It’s natural to worry about your child’s health. As a parent, you might even have concerns about the safety of medical products and procedures recommended for your child. Vaccines – including human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines – are some of safest medical products available for use in the United States because they are held to the highest standard of safety.

- Years of testing are required by law before vaccines can be licensed. Vaccines are carefully monitored even after they are licensed to ensure that they are very safe. The benefits of vaccination far outweigh any potential risk of side effects. For HPV vaccines, those benefits include cancer prevention, and the potential side effects are mild, like a sore arm where the shot was given.

- Sometimes a person does get sick after getting a vaccine. While this is unfortunate, it does not mean that the vaccine caused the health problem. Health problems actually caused by vaccines are very rare and are usually related to preexisting conditions or contraindications. These include:
  - Anyone who has had a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction to a dose of HPV vaccine should not get another dose.
  - Anyone who has a severe (life threatening) allergy to any component of HPV vaccine should not get the vaccine. Tell your doctor if you have any severe allergies that you know of, including a severe allergy to yeast.
  - HPV vaccine is not recommended for pregnant women. If you learn that you were pregnant when you were vaccinated, there is no reason to expect any problems for you or the baby. Any woman who learns she was pregnant when she got this HPV vaccine is encouraged to contact the manufacturer’s registry for HPV vaccination during pregnancy at 1-800-986-8999. Women who are breastfeeding may be vaccinated.
  - If you have a mild illness you can probably get the vaccine today. If you are moderately or severely ill, you should probably wait until you recover. Your doctor can advise you.

- To protect your child’s health, it’s important to have the facts. The facts are:
  - HPV vaccines are safe. Most side effects related to HPV vaccination are mild, like soreness in the arm where the shot was given.
  - HPV vaccines are cancer prevention. HPV vaccination protects your child from HPV infections that cause cancer.
HPV vaccines are cancer prevention

- HPV is short for human papillomavirus. There are more than 40 HPV types that infect human mucosal surfaces, mostly the genitals and mouth/throat. Although most infections will go away naturally, some infections that don't go away can cause cancers in men and women.

- HPV vaccines are life-saving vaccines that protect against HPV infections that cause most cases of cervical cancer and many cases of less common cancers including cancers of the anus, penis, vulva, vagina, and oropharynx (back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils).

- About 79 million people in the U.S., most in their teens and early 20s, are infected with HPV. About 14 million people become infected every year. With such high rates of infection, preteens and teens need the HPV vaccine now to prevent HPV cancers later in life.

HPV vaccines are safe

- All vaccines used in the United States are required to go through years of extensive safety testing before they are licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Each HPV vaccine recommended for your child was tested during clinical trials before being licensed and was found to be safe and effective. Before licensing:
  - Gardasil 9 (9-valent HPV vaccine) was studied in more than 15,000 males and females.
  - Gardasil (quadrivalent HPV vaccine) was studied in more than 29,000 males and females.
  - Cervarix (bivalent HPV vaccine) was studied in more than 30,000 females.

- After a vaccine is approved, FDA and CDC continue to monitor its safety for any possible side effects (adverse events), especially for rare events that might not have been identified in the pre-licensure clinical trials. It is important to always keep in mind “adverse events” include a number of scenarios and do not always mean a vaccine caused a health problem.

Approximately 67 million doses of Gardasil were distributed in the U.S. from June 2006 (when the vaccine was first licensed by FDA) through March 2014.

Developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Immunization Safety Office (ISO) and National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), June 5, 2015, with modifications by Kansas Foundation for Medical Care.
o CDC and FDA have no concerns about the safety of Gardasil after years of vaccine safety studies and monitoring activities since Gardasil was licensed in 2006.

o Adverse events reported after HPV vaccination are similar to those reported after other vaccines recommended for adolescents, including meningococcal conjugate and Tdap vaccination.

- Ongoing vaccine safety monitoring and research have confirmed Gardasil’s safety profile. CDC and FDA have monitored Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) reports related to Gardasil, and studies have searched for associations between vaccination and many specific health problems.
  
  - Monitoring by CDC and FDA in 2009 revealed most side effects reported after receiving Gardasil were non-serious, including: fainting; dizziness; nausea; headache; and pain, swelling, or redness in the arm where the shot was given.
  
  - A 2011 study found women and girls who received Gardasil were no more at risk of allergic reactions, severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis), Guillain–Barré Syndrome (GBS), stroke, blood clots, appendicitis, seizures, or fainting (syncope) than those who were unvaccinated or who received other vaccines.
  
  - A 2012 study and a 2014 study both found women and girls who received the Gardasil shot were not more likely to develop autoimmune disorders than those who were unvaccinated.
  
  - A 2013 study that included almost 1 million girls found Gardasil was not associated with blood clots or adverse events related to the immune and nervous systems.
  
  - A 2014 study that included over 1 million women found Gardasil was not associated with venous thromboembolism, also called VTE or blood clots.
  
  - A 2015 study found women and girls who received Gardasil were not more likely than those who were unvaccinated to develop multiple sclerosis (MS) or other neurodegenerative diseases.

HPV vaccines are not associated with cerebral vasculitis

- In 2012, CDC convened a Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) working group to review previous findings that 2 deaths related to cerebral vasculitis – also called central nervous system (CNS) vasculitis – occurred in association with HPV vaccination.

- On review, the panel, which included medical doctors and research scientists, identified scientific concerns with the authors’ suggestions. The panel found:
  
  - The authors did not clearly discuss their methods and the methods that were discussed were not adequate for accurately identifying CNS vasculitis in brain tissue.
  
  - There was a lack of evidence to support the authors’ claims that the two patients had CNS vasculitis or that the deaths were caused by the HPV vaccine.
References


Tips and Time-savers for Talking with Parents about HPV Vaccine

Recommend the HPV vaccine series the same way you recommend the other adolescent vaccines. For example, you can say “Your child needs these shots today,” and name all of the vaccines recommended for the child’s age.

Parents may be interested in vaccinating, yet still have questions. Taking the time to listen to parents’ questions helps you save time and give an effective response. CDC research shows these straightforward messages work with parents when discussing HPV vaccine—and are easy for you or your staff to deliver.

**CDC RESEARCH SHOWS:** The “HPV vaccine is cancer prevention” message resonates strongly with parents. In addition, studies show that a strong recommendation from you is the single best predictor of vaccination.

**TRY SAYING:** HPV vaccine is very important because it prevents cancer. I want your child to be protected from cancer. That’s why I’m recommending that your daughter/son receive the first dose of HPV vaccine today.

**CDC RESEARCH SHOWS:** Disease prevalence is not understood, and parents are unclear about what the vaccine actually protects against.

**TRY SAYING:** HPV can cause cancers of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in women, cancer of the penis in men, and cancers of the anus and the mouth or throat in both women and men. There are about 26,000 of these cancers each year—and most could be prevented with HPV vaccine. There are also many more precancerous conditions requiring treatment that can have lasting effects.

**CDC RESEARCH SHOWS:** Parents want a concrete reason to understand the recommendation that 11–12 year olds receive HPV vaccine.

**TRY SAYING:** We’re vaccinating today so your child will have the best protection possible long before the start of any kind of sexual activity. We vaccinate people well before they are exposed to an infection, as is the case with measles and the other recommended childhood vaccines. Similarly, we want to vaccinate children well before they get exposed to HPV.

**CDC RESEARCH SHOWS:** Parents may be concerned that vaccinating may be perceived by the child as permission to have sex.

**TRY SAYING:** Research has shown that getting the HPV vaccine does not make kids more likely to be sexually active or start having sex at a younger age.

**CDC RESEARCH SHOWS:** Parents might believe their child won’t be exposed to HPV because they aren’t sexually active or may not be for a long time.

**TRY SAYING:** HPV is so common that almost everyone will be infected at some point. It is estimated that 79 million Americans are currently infected with 14 million new HPV infections each year. Most people infected will never know. So even if your son/daughter waits until marriage to have sex, or only has one partner in the future, he/she could still be exposed if their partner has been exposed.

**CDC RESEARCH SHOWS:** Emphasizing your personal belief in the importance of HPV vaccine helps parents feel secure in their decision.

**TRY SAYING:** I strongly believe in the importance of this cancer-preventing vaccine, and I have given HPV vaccine to my son/daughter/grandchild/niece/nephew/friend’s children. Experts (like the American Academy of Pediatrics, cancer doctors, and the CDC) also agree that this vaccine is very important for your child.

**CDC RESEARCH SHOWS:** Understanding that the side effects are minor and emphasizing the extensive research that vaccines must undergo can help parents feel reassured.

**TRY SAYING:** HPV vaccine has been carefully studied by medical and scientific experts. HPV vaccine has been shown to be very effective and very safe. Like other shots, most side effects are mild, primarily pain or redness in the arm. This should go away quickly, and HPV vaccine has not been associated with any long-term side effects. Since 2006, about 57 million doses of HPV vaccine have been distributed in the U.S., and in the years of HPV vaccine safety studies and monitoring, no serious safety concerns have been identified.

**CDC RESEARCH SHOWS:** Many parents do not know that the full vaccine series requires 3 shots. Your reminder will help them to complete the series.

**TRY SAYING:** I want to make sure that your son/daughter receives all 3 shots of HPV vaccine to give them the best possible protection from cancer caused by HPV. Please make sure to make appointments on the way out, and put those appointments on your calendar before you leave the office today!
# Tips for Talking with Parents about HPV Vaccine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation or Concern</th>
<th>Try Saying...</th>
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</table>
| **Effective First Discussion**  
Use “bundled” language.  
HPV is framed as important and no different than other adolescent vaccines. | “Your child is due for vaccinations today to protect against meningitis, HPV cancers, and pertussis. We’ll give those shots at the end of the visit.” |
| **Ineffective First Discussion**  
HPV is perceived as different, optional, unimportant | **Don’t Say...**  
“Your child is due for some shots today. There is also the HPV vaccine…” |
| **Addressing Catch-Up Population**  
Presumption of vaccine uptake, conveys message of importance | “I see your child hasn’t gotten the HPV vaccine yet. We should definitely start that today!” |
<p>| “Why does my child need this vaccine?” | “HPV vaccine is very important because it prevents cancer. I want your child to be protected against cancer, so I’m recommending we start the first dose today.” |
| “My child will wait for marriage/won’t be exposed” | “HPV is so common that almost everyone will be infected at some time. When your child marries, she could still catch HPV from her husband. He might have been infected before he ever met her.” |
| “Why now? Can this wait until my child is older?” | “HPV vaccination provides the best protection when given at age 11 or 12, which is why I recommend starting the HPV vaccine series today.” |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“HPV vaccine will be a green light for sexual activity”</td>
<td>“Studies have shown that getting the HPV vaccine has absolutely no impact on sexual behavior. It doesn’t make kids more likely to have sex, or to have sex at a younger age.” (Sources include Liddon NC, Am J Prev Med 2012 42:44; Bednarczyk RA, Pediatrics 2012 130:798; Jena AB JAMA Intern Med 2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Would you give it to your child?”</td>
<td>“Yes, I gave it to my child (or grandchild, niece, friend’s son, etc.) because I think preventing cancer is very important.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Side Effects”</td>
<td>“HPV vaccine has been carefully studied by medical and scientific experts. HPV vaccine has been shown to be very effective and very safe. Like other shots, most side effects are mild, primarily pain or redness in the arm. This should go away quickly, and HPV vaccine has not been associated with any long-term side effects. Since 2006, about 57 million doses of HPV vaccine have been distributed in the U.S. and over 170 million worldwide. In the years of HPV vaccine safety studies and monitoring, no serious safety concerns have been identified.” (Sources include Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS); Arnheim-Dahlström, BMJ, Oct 2013; Klein NP, Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Oct 2012; Scheller, JAMA, 2015).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Possible Effects on Fertility”</td>
<td>“There is no data to suggest that getting HPV vaccine will have an effect on future fertility. However, persistent HPV infection can cause cervical cancer and the treatment of cervical cancer can leave women unable to have children. Even treatment for cervical pre-cancer can put a woman at risk for problems with her cervix during pregnancy causing preterm delivery or problems.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Reminder/Recall Discussion  
Many parents do not know that the full vaccine series requires 3 shots. Your reminder will help them complete the series. | “I want to make sure your child receives all 3 shots of the HPV vaccine to give the best possible protection from cancer caused by HPV. Be sure to make appointments on your way out, and put those appointments on your calendar before you leave the office today!” |

For more HPV vaccine facts & resources visit our website: www.immunizekansascoalition.org