



## Should HPV Vaccination Be Optional

- WHEREAS Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States. About 80 million Americans are currently infected with HPV, that is about one in four persons are infected. Every year about 14 million more get infected.
- WHEREAS HPV is a different virus than Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV). HPV is a group of more than 150 related viruses. HPV is named for the warts (papillomas) some HPV can cause. It is most commonly spread during skin-to-skin contact such as vaginal or anal sex. HPV can be spread even when an infected person has no signs and symptoms.
- WHEREAS HPV is so common that nearly all sexually active men and women will get at least one type of HPV at some point in their lives. Most people with HPV do not know they are infected and never develop symptoms or health problems from it. There is no test to find out a person's HPV status.
- WHEREAS HPV goes away on its own in many cases and does not cause any health problems. But when HPV does not go away, it can cause health problems like genital warts and cancer. Genital warts usually appear as a small bump or group of bumps in the genital area. They can be small or large, raised or flat, or shaped like a cauliflower. A healthcare provider can usually diagnose warts by looking at the genital area. There are more than 40 HPV types that can infect the genital areas of males and females About 360,000 people in the United States get genital warts each year.
- WHEREAS There are many different types of HPV. Some types can cause health problems including cancers of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in women, and cancer of penis in men and anus and throat in men and women. Can often take years, even decades to develop after a person gets
- WHEREAS There are vaccines that can stop these health problems from happening.
- WHEREAS HPV vaccination is recommended for girls and boys at ages 11 or 12. There are Three HPV vaccines approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommended by the Centers for Disease. HPV vaccines are safe and effective.
- WHEREAS Routine screening for women aged 21 to 65 years old can prevent cervical cancer. There are HPV tests that can be used to screen for cervical cancer.

- WHEREAS Using latex condoms the right way every time you have sex can lower chances of getting HPV. Even then HPV can infect areas that are not covered by a condom.
- WHEREAS A mutually monogamous relationship – or have sex only with someone who only has sex with you can reduce HPV and associated health problems.
- WHEREAS ASNA has a public health commitment to our communities to provide care, protection and educational awareness to our children by administering vaccinations and educating parents of vaccine-preventable diseases therefore be it:
- RESOLVED ASNA will partner with agencies such as the ADPH, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) to promote educational awareness of three series vaccination for preventable diseases; and be it further
- RESOLVED ASNA will become one of the most important resources to influence parents decision to vaccinate their children; and be it further
- RESOLVED ASNA will publish an article in the *Alabama Nurse* and provide appropriate links to pertinent resources related to STI, proven communication strategies to address parent’s questions and the importance of health promotion with preventive screenings for cancer; and be it further
- RESOLVED ASNA will promote the furtherance of HPV research to better understand the science between HPV disease and the cancers it impact.

Submitted by Wanda Spillers, DNP, RN, District 3

## References

A Parent’s Guide to Preteen and Teen HPV Vaccination Retrieved from <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4250.pdf>

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HPV Vaccines are Safe for Your Child Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/pdf/parents-hpv-vaccine-is-safe.pdf>

Heather Burcham Story Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VE2Kfj1kXtl>

Talking to Parents about Vaccines Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html>