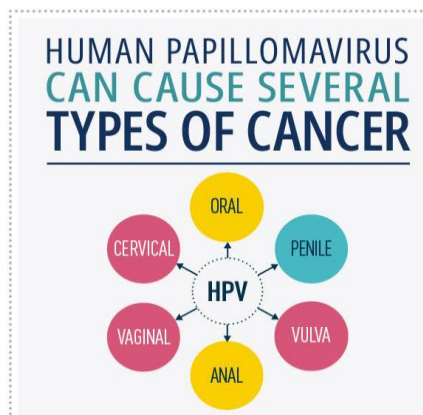
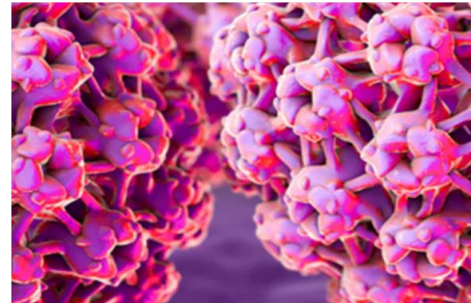




Together We Can Eliminate HPV-Related Cancers in Maryland: A Call to Action

Human papillomavirus (HPV) causes approximately 37,800 new cancers annually in the US.ⁱ We have a powerful tool to combat this: the HPV vaccine. This safe and effective vaccine prevents six different HPV-related cancers, including oropharyngeal and cervical cancers in *all genders*. The American Cancer Society and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend vaccination starting at age 9, and leading Maryland institutions like the AAP Maryland Chapter, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the University of Maryland, and Johns Hopkins are championing this effort. People up to age 45 can receive this vaccine.



Maryland's HPV Vaccination Rates: Room for Improvement

Current vaccination rates for Maryland adolescents (under 18) are 64.3% for boys and 70.2% for girls.ⁱⁱ Among young adults (18-26), national rates are even lower: approximately 27% for men and 53.6% for women.ⁱⁱⁱ Rural communities often experience lower vaccination rates coupled with higher rates of HPV-related cancers.^{iv} The Healthy People 2030 goal for HPV vaccination is 80% coverage for 13–15-year-olds.

Practical Steps You Can Take

- **Optimize Your EHR:** Configure your electronic health record and pharmacy notifications to alert you for patients aged 9 through 45. Initiating vaccination at age 9 significantly increases completion rates (by 22 times!).^v
- **Make Strong Recommendations:** Make confident recommendations for HPV vaccination to *all* patients aged 9 through 45. Your recommendation can increase vaccination uptake by up to 5 times.^{vi} For adults aged 27-45, engage in shared decision-making, discussing the benefits of vaccination.





- **Offer Same-Day Vaccination:** Encourage and facilitate same-day vaccination whenever possible.
- **Leverage Pharmacies:** Partner with local pharmacies. If you can't stock the vaccine, e-prescribe/prescribe it. Frequently, e-prescribing prompts the pharmacy to activate patient reminders, which often improves patient adherence.
- **Recall and Follow-Up:** Proactively identify patients who haven't completed their 2- or 3-dose series and call them to encourage completion of the vaccines in your facility or at a pharmacy.
- **Check Adult Vaccination:** Ensure adult patients up to age 45 have completed their HPV vaccine series.
- **Designate an Immunization Champion:** Champions help overcome organizational indifference or resistance to efforts.
- **Implement Standing Orders:** Learn more at [Vaccine Standing Orders for Healthcare Providers](https://immunize.org/vaccine-standing-orders-for-healthcare-providers) (immunize.org).



Vaccine Coverage and Cost

MDH, through the Maryland Vaccines for Children Program, provides HPV vaccine at no cost to children under 18 who are enrolled in Maryland Medicaid or who are under- or uninsured. Most insurance plans cover the vaccine up to age 26. Over 95% of insurers cover the cost of the vaccine for people ages 27-45 with shared decision-making, which should be documented in the patient record.

Important Policy Change: HPV Vaccine Now Fully Covered by Medicaid

Maryland Medicaid now fully reimburses healthcare providers for the complete cost of the HPV vaccine for eligible adult patients, removing a significant financial barrier to this crucial preventative measure. Providers who previously faced financial constraints in offering the HPV vaccine are strongly encouraged to incorporate it into their routine adult vaccination schedules, ensuring broader protection against HPV-related cancers and diseases.

Thank you for your dedication to improving the health of your patients. Please join us as we strive for the elimination of vaccine-preventable HPV-related cancers and diseases

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Niharika Khanna MD".

Niharika Khanna, MD, MBBS, DGO
Chair
Maryland Cancer Collaborative



Resources

Maryland Department of Health

- Maryland Department of Health [HPV vaccination webpage](#)
- Register for the no-cost MOC project- HPV: Don't Wait. Vaccinate! Increasing First Dose HPV Vaccine for Teens
https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/cancer/Documents/HPV%20Dont%20Wait%20Vaccinate%20Registration%20Flyer_local%20promotion%20update.pdf

American Academy of Pediatrics

- American Academy of Pediatrics webpage featuring various tools and resources
<https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/human-papillomavirus-hpv>
- American Academy of Pediatrics HPV vaccination patient care webpage
<https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/immunizations/human-papillomavirus-vaccines/>
- [Full article: Why the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends initiating HPV vaccine at age 9 tandfonline.com](#)

National HPV Roundtable Clinical and Health System Action Guides

Clinical Guides

- Physicians, Physician Assistants & Nurse Practitioners
<http://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/PROVIDERS-Action-Guide-WEB.pdf>
- Nurses & Medical Assistants
<http://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/RNMA-Action-Guide-WEB.pdf>
- Office Administrative Staff Teams
<http://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/OFFICE-TEAMS-Action-Guide-WEB.pdf>

Systems Guides

- Small Private Practices
<http://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SMALL-PRACTICES-Action-Guide-WEB.pdf>
- Large Health Systems
<http://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/LARGE-SYSTEMS-Action-Guide-WEB.pdf>

ⁱ Center for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC). Cancers Linked With HPV Each Year.
<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/cases.html#:~:text=Overview,about%2037%2C800%20of%20these%20cancers.>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/teenvaxview/data-reports/index.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ McElfish PA, Narcisse MR, Felix HC, Cascante DC, Nagarsheth N, Teeter B, Faramawi MF. Race, Nativity, and Sex Disparities in Human Papillomavirus Vaccination among Young Adults in the USA. J Racial Ethn Health Disparities. 2021 Oct;8(5):1260-1266. doi: 10.1007/s40615-020-00886-5. Epub 2020 Oct 8. PMID: 33033889; PMCID: PMC9753349.

^{iv} Brandt HM, Vanderpool RC, Pilar M, Zubizarreta M, Stradtman LR. A narrative review of HPV vaccination interventions in rural U.S. communities. Prev Med. 2021 Apr;145:106407. doi: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2020.106407. Epub 2021 Jan 1. PMID: 33388323.

^v O'Leary ST. Why the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends initiating HPV vaccine at age 9. Hum Vaccin Immunother. 2022 Nov 30;18(6):2146434. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2022.2146434. Epub 2022 Nov 20. PMID: 36404635; PMCID: PMC9746363.

^{vi} Ylitalo KR, Lee H, Mehta NK. Health care provider recommendation, human papillomavirus vaccination, and race/ethnicity in the US National Immunization Survey. Am J Public Health. 2013 Jan;103(1):164-9. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2011.300600. Epub 2012 Jun 14. PMID: 22698055; PMCID: PMC3518336.