

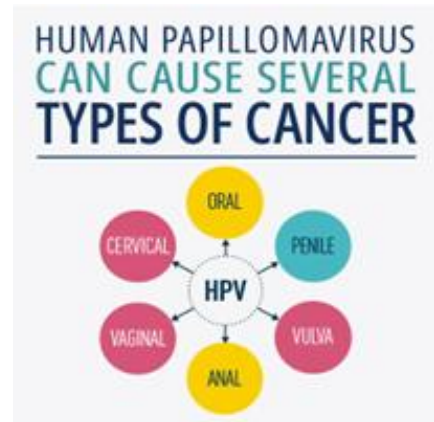


Protect Maryland's Youth from HPV-Related Cancers

Start Vaccination at Age 9

Human papillomavirus (HPV) causes approximately 37,800 new cancers annually in the US.ⁱ This virus is a leading cause of cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers.

The HPV vaccine is safe and highly effective at preventing these devastating diseases. It offers crucial protection and is recommended for adolescents aged 9 to 12, but the current vaccination rate for Maryland adolescents (under 18) is only 64.3% for boys and 70.2% for girls.ⁱⁱ The Healthy People 2030 goal is 80% for HPV vaccination.



As a trusted healthcare provider in Maryland, your recommendation carries immense weight. Studies consistently show that providers are highly influential in parents' decisions to vaccinate their children.

To maximize protection and increase vaccination rates, we strongly encourage you to begin the HPV vaccination series at age 9. This strategy aligns with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Cancer Society, and the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable, and is consistent with the ACIP recommendation for starting the HPV series at age 9.

Key advantages for vaccination at age 9:

- **Increased time for series completion:** Provides ample opportunity to complete the vaccine series and provide full protection against potential HPV Vaccination.
- **Reduced concerns about sexual activity:** Minimizes parental hesitation related to perceived sexual activity.
- **Focus on comprehensive protection:** Promotes overall health by encouraging vaccination against all vaccine-preventable diseases.
- **Enhanced likelihood of full vaccination before exposure:** Maximizes the vaccine's protective potential.
- **High acceptability:** This strategy is well-received by systems, providers, and parents.





You will not be alone in this effort. Nationally, one in five vaccinating providers already administer the HPV vaccine to 9- and 10-year-olds, and half are willing to recommend it at age 9. This growing trend underscores both the recognition of the importance, and the feasibility, of early vaccination.

By starting the HPV vaccination series at age 9, we can significantly increase the number of Maryland adolescents protected from HPV-related cancers. Your proactive recommendation can save lives.

We urge you to:

- **Engage in open and informative conversations with parents and guardians in Maryland.**
- **Recommend starting HPV vaccination at age 9.**
- **Emphasize the safety and efficacy of the HPV vaccine.**

For further information and resources on starting HPV vaccination at age 9, please visit: <https://hpvroundtable.org/start-hpv-vaccination-at-age-9/>

Together, we can protect Maryland's youth from the devastating impact of HPV-related cancers.

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

HPV Vaccination at Age 9

- HPV Vaccination at Age 9 - <https://hpvroundtable.org/start-hpv-vaccination-at-age-9/>

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/teenavaxview/data-reports/index.html>