



Getting Back on Track with Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination: Protect Preteens against HPV-Associated Cancers

HPV vaccination is cancer prevention.

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that we increase the uptake of HPV vaccination among preteens. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a significant drop in childhood and adolescent vaccinations, including vaccinations for the prevention of HPV infection that can lead to six types of cancers.¹ The HPV vaccine is recommended for preteen boys and girls because it provides protection before exposure to the virus and produces a more robust immune response during the preteen years.²



Despite its effectiveness, HPV vaccination rates remain below other vaccines that are recommended for adolescents. The most recent data for Maryland showed uptake of tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine was 90.2% and the meningococcal vaccine was 94%, while HPV vaccination rates remain significantly behind these vaccines, with initiation at 83.1% and those with an up-to-date status at 66.8%.³ This gap in coverage represents missed opportunities to vaccinate preteens with the HPV vaccine at the same time as other routinely recommended vaccines. Patients who receive a strong provider recommendation are more likely to receive the HPV vaccine.^{4,5}

The burden of HPV-related mortality in the U.S. far surpasses the mortality from tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and meningococcal disease combined.^{6,7,8} In the U.S., there are roughly 4,000 deaths per year from cervical cancer, not to mention the burden from the other types of HPV-related cancer.^{7,8} The vast majority of these deaths are preventable with the 9-valent HPV vaccine.⁸ Because of this, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends starting the series between 9 and 12 years, at an age that the provider deems optimal for acceptance and completion

¹ American Cancer Society. Getting Essential Childhood and Adolescent Vaccines during the COVID-19 Pandemic. <https://www.cancer.org/healthy/hpv-vaccine/vaccination-during-covid.html>. Accessed June 10, 2022.

² American Academy of Pediatrics. Here's Why Your Preteen Needs the HPV Vaccine. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/How-to-Talk-to-Your-Preteen-About-HPV-Vaccine.aspx>. Accessed August 4, 2022.

³ Center for Disease Control and Prevention. National Immunization Survey. TeenVaxView. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/teenvaxview/index.html>. Accessed June 10, 2022

⁴ Ylitalo, KR, Lee H, & Mehta NK. Health care provider recommendation, human papillomavirus vaccination, and race/ethnicity in the U.S. National Immunization Survey. American Journal of Public Health. 2013. 103(1):164–169.2012.

⁵ Lau M, Lin H, & Flores G. Factors associated with human papillomavirus vaccine series initiation and healthcare provider recommendation in U.S. adolescent females: 2007 National Survey of Children's Health. Vaccine. 2012. 30(20):3112–3118.

⁶ National Center for Health Statistics. Health, United States, 2019. Hyattsville, MD. 2021. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/healthdata/content/2019.htm>.

⁷ American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2019. <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2019/cancer-facts-and-figures-2019.pdf>.

of the vaccination series.⁸ The American Cancer Society has also updated their HPV vaccination recommendations to start at age 9 and note that research is beginning to show that more parents agree to vaccination when it is offered between ages 9 and 10 and that younger children are more likely to complete the series than those who start between ages 11 and 12.⁹ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends routine HPV vaccination at age 11 or 12 years, and vaccination can be given starting at age 9 years.¹⁰



THE AAP RECOMMENDS STARTING
THE HPV VACCINATION SERIES
BETWEEN 9 AND 12 YEARS

Below, please find a selection of materials, developed by the CDC or National HPV Vaccination Roundtable, to assist you in your efforts to increase HPV vaccination awareness. The fact sheets may be used by providers in conversations with parents and the video and radio public service announcements (PSAs) may be used in provider office waiting rooms. These materials are available at no cost by visiting <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/cancer/Pages/HPV.aspx> or by visiting the individual links listed in the table below.

Fact Sheet for Parents (English and Spanish) https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/teens/fact-sheets.html
30 second PSA video about HPV (English and Spanish) https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/partners/outreach-parents/materials-parents.html • Click on "Video and Audio Resources" • Scroll down for the HPV vaccine PSAs
Various Video and Radio PSAs and podcasts (English and Spanish) https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/teens/video-audio.html#podcasts
National HPV Roundtable Clinical and Health System Action Guides Clinical Guides • Physicians, Physician Assistants & Nurse Practitioners http://hpvrroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/PROVIDERS-Action-Guide-WEB.pdf • Nurses & Medical Assistants http://hpvrroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/RNMA-Action-Guide-WEB.pdf • Dentists & Hygienists http://hpvrroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/DENTAL-Action-Guide-WEB.pdf • Office Administrative Staff Teams

⁸ American Academy of Pediatrics. Why AAP recommends initiating HPV vaccination as early as age 9. <https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/14942>. Accessed 6/14/2022.

⁹ American Cancer Society. ACS Updates HPV Vaccination Recommendations to Start at Age 9. <https://www.cancer.org/latest-news/acs-updates-hpv-vaccination-recommendations-to-start-at-age-9.html>. Accessed 6/14/2022.

¹⁰ Meites E, Kempe A, & Markowitz LE. Use of a 2-Dose Schedule for Human Papillomavirus Vaccination – Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2016;65:1405-1408. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6549a5>. Accessed 8/4/2022.

<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>

For questions on any of these resources, please contact the Maryland Department of Health Center for Cancer Prevention and Control at mdh.cancer@maryland.gov.