

WHAT IS HPV?

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common viral infection that can cause cancer. While some people infected with HPV develop symptoms such as warts, others may have no symptoms at all. Even those without symptoms can develop one of the cancers associated with HPV. Although there are 100 different HPV varieties, specific types of HPV are more likely to cause cancer. About 70% of HPV-related cancers are caused by HPV-16 and HPV-18.

CAN HPV AND HPV-RELATED CANCERS BE PREVENTED?

YES!

The HPV vaccination is the best way to prevent HPV infection. The HPV vaccine prevents infection from the HPV types that cause over 90% of these cancers.

IS THE VACCINE SAFE?

YES!

Side effects are mild, temporary and similar to those seen with other vaccines. Your health care provider can tell you what to expect.



~80 million

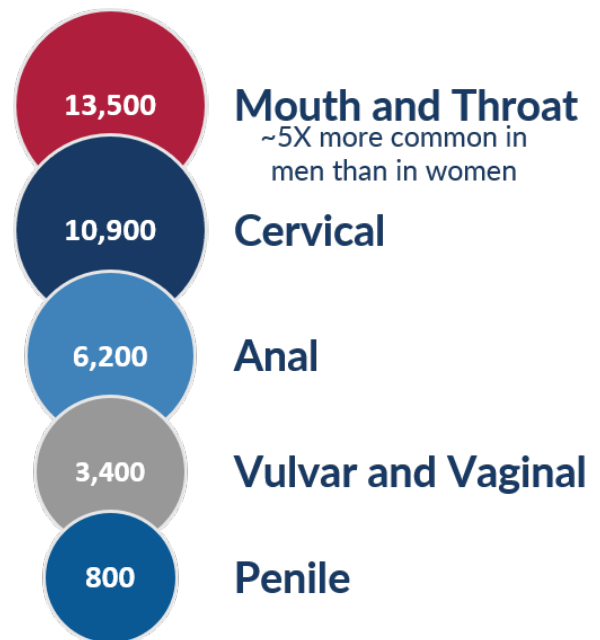
Americans have been infected with HPV.

80% of sexually active people will be infected with HPV during their lifetime.

~14 million

Americans are infected with HPV every year.

NUMBER OF NEW HPV-ASSOCIATED CANCERS EACH YEAR



WHO SHOULD RECEIVE THE HPV VACCINATION AND WHEN?

HPV vaccination is routinely recommended to be started around age 11 to 12 years for both boys and girls, but it can safely be given to children as young as age 9. Catch-up vaccination is recommended up to age 26. Furthermore, some patients age 27 to 45 may benefit. Ask your health care provider if you or your child should get the HPV vaccine.



CAN THE HPV VACCINE BE GIVEN WITH OTHER VACCINES?

YES!

HPV can be safely given at the same time as other routinely recommended vaccines for children and adults.

CAN YOU STILL GET THE HPV VACCINE IF YOU ARE SICK?

Patients with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. Patients who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting HPV vaccine. Pregnant women should wait until after pregnancy to be vaccinated.

WHERE CAN YOU GET RELIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT VACCINES?

The best place to start for information on vaccines, or any health-related topic, is your health care provider. The websites below are also good sources of information.

- **The Immunization Action Coalition**
vaccineinformation.org/
- **The Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**
chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center
- **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases**
nfid.org/immunization/
- **American Academy of Pediatrics Parenting Website**
healthychildren.org/english/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/default.aspx



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