

As parents, you would do anything you can to protect your children's health. Today, there is a vaccine to prevent some types of HPV cancer in your kids, **the HPV Vaccine.**

## **HPV VACCINE IS CANCER PREVENTION!**

**1**  
HPV (human papillomavirus) is a common virus that infects men and women.

**4**  
Preventing cancer is better than treating cancer.

**2**  
HPV vaccination works!

**5**  
Your child can get the HPV vaccine when they receive the other preteen vaccines.

**3**  
HPV vaccination prevents some cancers caused by HPV.

**6**  
Preventing cancer is easier than ever before.

**6 REASONS  
TO GET  
HPV VACCINE  
FOR YOUR  
CHILD.**

**6 OUT OF 10 Parents are choosing to get the HPV vaccine for their children.**

Talk to your child's doctor about HPV cancer prevention at ages 11 - 12.

## Common Questions Parents Have About the HPV Vaccine

# HPV VACCINE IS CANCER PREVENTION!

### WHAT HPV VACCINES ARE THERE AND WHAT ARE THE RECOMMENDED DOSES?

One HPV vaccine, Gardasil 9-valent, is currently used on Guam. The vaccine is given as a series of either 2 or 3 doses in a six month period based on your child's age or health condition.



### IS THE HPV VACCINE SAFE?

YES. It has been studied very carefully and continues to be monitored by CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). No serious safety concerns have been linked to HPV vaccination.

### WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED THIS HPV VACCINE AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE?

Like all vaccines, HPV vaccines offer the best protection to girls and boys who complete the series and have time to develop an immune response. The vaccine works best before infection with the HPV virus.

**TALK TO YOUR CHILD'S DOCTOR ABOUT HPV CANCER PREVENTION AT AGES 11 - 12.**

### HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILDREN AVOID HPV AND THE HEALTH PROBLEMS IT CAN CAUSE?

**Get your children vaccinated!** Doctors and experts recommend the HPV vaccine for **girls and boys, ages 11 and 12 years**, before sexual activity begins and HPV infection can occur. CDC recommends 11 to 14 year olds get **2 doses**, 6 to 12 months apart.

HPV Vaccine is also recommended for:

- **Girls:** ages 13 to 26 years old;
- **Boys:** ages 13 to 21 years of age.
- Those children with health conditions, or teens who are 15 years of age and older will need **3 doses** of the vaccine.

### ARE THERE SIDE EFFECTS?

The most common side effects are usually mild and include:

- Pain, redness, or swelling in the arm where the shot was given;
- Fever;
- Headache or feeling tired;
- Nausea;
- Muscle or joint pain.

### SINCE HPV CAN BE PASSED ON DURING SEXUAL ACTIVITY, WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED THE VACCINE WHEN HE/SHE IS NOT HAVING SEX YET?

Getting the vaccine early, at ages 11 or 12, before sexual activity begins, protects your child in the future. The vaccine can prevent 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of the vaccine. If your preteen child does not have health insurance, programs like the Vaccines for Children (VFC) can provide the vaccine for free or at low cost if your child is eligible. Contact the Public Health Immunization Program (735-7143) for information.