

# HPV Vaccination: A Powerful Tool for Cancer Prevention

## What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus that can cause cancers in multiple parts of your body. There are over 200 types of HPV, and it spreads through intimate skin-to-skin contact.

## What is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is over 90% effective at protecting you from the 9 types of HPV that are most likely to cause cancer and genital warts. Studies show that the HPV vaccine provides long-lasting protection.

## Why should my child get the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine protects against several types of cancer that are caused by HPV, including cervical, vaginal, penile, and anal cancer, as well as certain types of mouth and throat cancers. Studies have shown that getting vaccinated earlier leads to better protection against HPV.

## Who should get the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Cancer Society for:

- All children age 9 –12 years
- Teens and young adults up to age 26 years who are not vaccinated

Younger immune systems respond more strongly, providing better protection. Adults ages 27–45 years who have not been vaccinated may choose to get the HPV vaccine after talking with their healthcare provider.

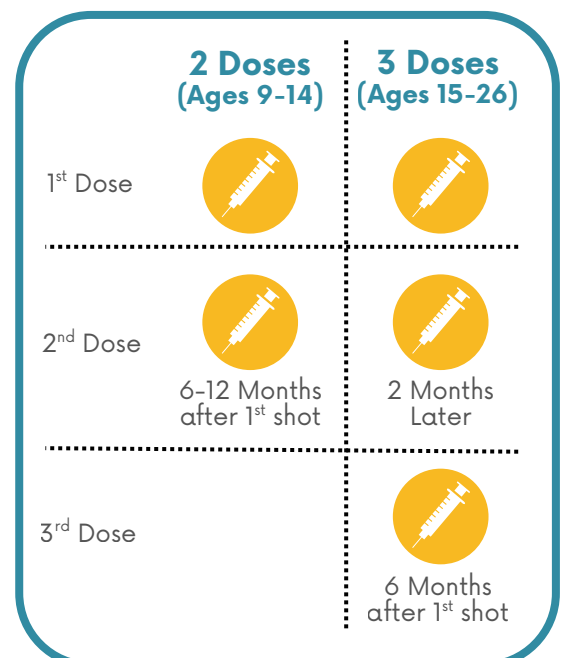
## How many doses of HPV do I need?

- Ages 9 – 14 years: 2 doses, 6–12 months apart
- Ages 15–26 years: 3 doses, given 0, 1–2 months, and 6 months apart
- Immunocompromised patients: all 3 doses

Receiving a single dose of the HPV vaccine may provide some protection, but it is recommended to complete the full series for best protection.

Vaccinating at ages 9–12 years helps protect your child early, long before there is any contact with the virus. It also means fewer doses of the HPV vaccine.

Ask your child's doctor about the HPV vaccine at your next appointment.



# Get the Facts

## Does the HPV vaccine affect fertility?

No. The HPV vaccine does not affect fertility. In fact, it helps protect fertility by preventing cancers that could impact reproductive health.

Treatment for cervical cancer can affect fertility and the ability to carry a pregnancy.<sup>1</sup>

## Does the HPV vaccine cause autoimmune issues?

No. Multiple large studies show no evidence that HPV vaccination causes autoimmune disorders.<sup>2</sup>

## Does getting the HPV vaccine lead to engaging in sexual activity at an earlier age?

No. Research shows that children who receive the HPV vaccine do not start having sexual activity earlier nor do they engage in riskier behaviors more than those who are not vaccinated.<sup>3</sup>

The HPV vaccine can prevent more than 90% of cancers caused by HPV. That's about 33,000 cases each year in the U.S.<sup>4</sup>

HPV vaccination works BEST when given before someone is exposed to the virus.

## Not sure which vaccines your child received?

You can request your child's vaccination record by contacting their primary pediatrician OR going to CT Wiz!

<https://ctwizpublicportal.dph.ct.gov/>



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### American Cancer Society

Prevention facts about six cancers you can prevent with HPV vaccine.

[cancer.org](https://cancer.org)



### Ask About HPV

List of commonly asked questions with answers about HPV, HPV vaccine, symptoms, and guidelines.

[askabout HPV.org](https://askabout HPV.org)



### Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Vaccine education information regarding HPV, vaccine, and risks and benefits.

[chop.edu/vaccine](https://chop.edu/vaccine)



### Connecticut Cancer Partnership

Resource on how to make healthier choices and finding supportive services.

[ctcancerpartnership.org](https://ctcancerpartnership.org)



### Connecticut Department of Public Health - Immunizations

Immunization guide to provide clear, accurate information for parents and caregivers.

[portal.ct.gov/dph](https://portal.ct.gov/dph)



### Citations

1. Bruni, L., et al. (2019). Human papillomavirus vaccination: Global epidemiology and effectiveness. *Vaccine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2019.07.088>
2. Perkins, R. B., et al. (2018). Missed opportunities for HPV vaccination in adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*.
3. Harvard Medical School. (2018). HPV vaccination not linked to riskier sexual behavior.
4. American Cancer Society. (2021). HPV vaccination: Cancer prevention communication tip sheet.