

HPV Vaccine for Preteens and Teens

What is HPV disease?



HPV is short for Human Papillomavirus, a common virus. In the United States each year, there are about 17,000 women and 9,000 men affected by HPV-related cancers. Many of these cancers could be prevented by vaccination.

Why does my child need HPV vaccine?

This vaccine is for protection from most of the cancers caused by HPV infection. HPV is a very common virus that spreads between people when they have sexual contact with another person. About 14 million people, including teens, become infected with HPV each year. HPV can cause cervical cancer in women and penile cancer in men. HPV can also cause anal cancer, throat cancer, and genital warts in both men and women.

When should my child be vaccinated?

The HPV vaccine is recommended for preteen boys and girls at 11 or 12 years so they are protected before ever being exposed to the virus. If your teen hasn't gotten the vaccine yet, talk to their doctor about getting it for them as soon as possible. The HPV vaccine is given in 3 shots. The second shot is given 1 or 2 months after the first shot. Then a third shot is given 6 months after the first shot. Be sure that your child gets all 3 shots for full protection.

If a dose of HPV vaccine is delayed, do I need to start the series over?

No, do not restart the series. Just pick up where your child left off and complete the series.

Is the HPV vaccine safe?

Yes. HPV vaccines were studied in tens of thousands of people around the world. More than 57 million doses have been distributed and serious side effects from the HPV vaccine are rare. Vaccine safety continues to be monitored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The most common side effects reported are mild. They include: pain in the arm where the shot was given, dizziness, fever, and nausea. Some preteens and teens might faint after the HPV vaccine or any shot. Be sure that your child eats something before going to get the vaccine. Preteens and teens should sit or lie down when they get a shot and stay like that for 15 minutes after the shot. This can help prevent fainting and any injury that could happen while fainting.

How can I get help paying for these vaccines?

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides vaccines for children ages 18 years and younger, who are not insured or under-insured, Medicaid-eligible, or American Indian/Alaska Native.

Where can my child get vaccinated?

Your child can visit their doctor or healthcare provider to get their HPV vaccine. Local Health Departments also offer HPV vaccine. To find a Health Department near you visit: dph.georgia.gov/public-health-districts.

For more information about HPV vaccines and the other vaccines for preteens and teens, talk to your child's healthcare provider. Information is also available on the Georgia Department of Public Health, Immunization Office website dph.georgia.gov/immunization-section or CDC's website www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/index.html



Have questions?

Talk with your Healthcare Provider.

<http://dph.georgia.gov/immunization-section>