



Where to Get HPV Vaccination in Arkansas and How to Pay for It

HPV vaccination is routinely recommended for all persons (male and female), who are 11 to 12 years of age. HPV vaccine may be given to people as young as 9 years of age and also to people through 26 years of age, if they did not received it earlier. Adults age 27 - 45 who have not adequately been previously vaccinated may also make a shared decision with their health care provider about getting a vaccine. People, who receive their first dose of HPV vaccine before their 15th birthday, need only 2 doses of HPV vaccine. Everyone who receives their first dose on or after their 15th birthday will need 3 doses. All people with weakened immune systems will need 3 doses regardless of their age. For the 2-dose series, the second dose is given 6 to 12 months after the first dose. For the 3-dose series, the second dose is given 1 to 2 months after the first dose, and the third dose is given 6 to 12 months after the first dose. Each dose is given as a shot in the upper arm.

For persons aged 9 through 18 years, who are uninsured or on Medicaid, or who are American Indian or native Alaskan:

HPV vaccination is available at no cost to the patient from all Arkansas Department of Health local health units and any medical clinic that participates in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Call ahead for an appointment and bring your Medicaid card, if you have one.

For persons aged 9 through 18 years with health insurance:

HPV vaccination is available at no cost to the patient through all of the Arkansas Department of Health local health units and usually at no cost through medical clinics that stock the HPV vaccine. Call ahead for an appointment and bring your insurance card.

For persons aged 9 through 26 years with insurance:

HPV vaccination is available at pharmacies that stock the HPV vaccine. It is usually at no cost to the patient, depending on their insurance.

- Arkansas pharmacists can give vaccinations to kids 7 and older. The pharmacists must have a general standing order with a collaborative practice or physician.
- Call ahead to make sure the pharmacy has the HPV vaccine in stock and to check whether a doctor's prescription is needed (if the pharmacy does not have a standing order a prescription will be needed).
- Parents will still need to give consent before kids 18 and under receive an immunization.

Persons aged 19 and older, who are uninsured or on Medicaid:

Persons without insurance or Medicaid will need to pay for HPV vaccination themselves at any pharmacy or medical clinic willing to administer the HPV vaccine to them. A doctor's prescription may be required at certain pharmacies.

- The total cost for Gardasil 9 is approximately \$540. This includes all three doses at about \$180 a dose. Gardasil 9 is the name of the only HPV vaccine currently available in the U.S.
- Persons who are unable to afford the cost of HPV vaccination may be eligible for Merck's Patient Assistance Program. Merck is the manufacturer of Gardasil 9. More information about the Merck Patient Assistance Program can be found at www.merckhelps.com.
- Wal-Mart, CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, Kroger Pharmacy, Kmart and Target (CVS) participate in the GoodRx coupon program that offers discounts on Gardasil 9. The coupons can be obtained at the following link: https://www.goodrx.com/gardasil?hide_online_pharmacies=true&show_pet_friendly_pharmacies=false. (most independent pharmacies do not participate in the GoodRx program)