

# Talking to Parents about HPV Vaccine



## HPV VACCINE IS CANCER PREVENTION

Recommend HPV vaccination in the **same way** and on the **same day** as all adolescent vaccines. You can say, “Now that your son is 11, he is due for vaccinations today to help protect him from meningitis, HPV cancers, and whooping cough. Do you have any questions?” Taking the time to listen and understand parents’ concerns can help you respond to their concerns more effectively.

Why does my child need HPV vaccine?

HPV vaccine is important because it prevents infections that can cause cancer. That’s why we need to start the shot series today.

How do you know the vaccine works?

Studies continue to prove HPV vaccination works extremely well, decreasing the number of infections and HPV precancers in young people since it has been available.

Why do they need HPV vaccine at such a young age?

Vaccines protect your child before they are exposed to a disease. That’s why we give the HPV vaccine earlier rather than later, to protect them long before they are ever exposed.

Also, if your child gets the shot now, they will only need two doses. If you wait until your child is older, they may end up needing three shots.

Why do boys need the HPV vaccine?

HPV vaccination can help prevent future infections that can lead to cancers of the penis, anus, and back of the throat in men.

Are all of these vaccines actually required?

I strongly recommend each of these vaccines and so do experts at the CDC and major medical organizations. School entry requirements are developed for public health and safety, but don’t always reflect the most current medical recommendations for your child’s health.

Some HPV infections can cause cancer—like cancer of the cervix or in the back of the throat—but we can protect your child from these cancers in the future by getting the first HPV shot today.

What diseases are caused by HPV?

HPV is a very common infection in women and men that can cause cancer. Starting the vaccine series today will help protect your child from the cancers and diseases caused by HPV.

Is my child really at risk for HPV?

Studies tell us that getting HPV vaccine doesn’t make kids more likely to start having sex. I made sure my child (or grandchild, etc.) got HPV vaccine, and I recommend we give your child her first HPV shot today.

I’m worried my child will think that getting this vaccine makes it OK to have sex.

Yes, HPV vaccination is very safe. Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects, including pain, swelling, or redness where the shot was given. That’s normal for HPV vaccine too and should go away in a day or two. Sometimes kids faint after they get shots and they could be injured if they fall from fainting. We’ll have your child stay seated after the shot to help protect him/her.

I’m worried about the safety of HPV vaccine. Do you think it’s safe?

There is no evidence available to suggest that getting HPV vaccine will have an effect on future fertility. However, women who develop an HPV precancer or cancer could require treatment that would limit their ability to have children.

Can HPV vaccine cause infertility in my child?

For more information, visit [cdc.gov/vaccines/conversations](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/conversations)