

Have YOU had the HPV Vaccine?

What is Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)?

HPV is a group of more than 150 related viruses. It is named for the warts (papillomas) some types can cause. Each HPV virus is given a number, which is called its HPV type. Types 16 and 18 cause 70% of cervical cancers. Types 6 and 11 cause 90% of genital warts.

How do you get HPV?

HPV is **transmitted** through intimate skin-to-skin contact, not bodily fluids. You can get **HPV** by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has the virus. You could get HPV from one partner, have it go dormant (inactive), and later, pass it on to another partner.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the U.S. About 79 million are infected, with about 14 million new infections every year. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says 80% of the U.S. population will get HPV at some point.

What are the risks of getting HPV?

In most cases, the virus is harmless and most people have no symptoms. The body clears most HPV infections naturally. Some HPV types, however, can lead to cancers of mouth, throat, anus, or rectum. Men can get penile cancer. In women, HPV can cause cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers. HPV is responsible for 90% of cervical and anal cancers and 70% of vulvar and vaginal cancers.

The good news is that there is a vaccine that can prevent infection with the types of HPV that most commonly cause cancer.

Who Should/Should Not Get Vaccinated

The current recommendations are to give the HPV vaccine to those between the ages of 9 and 26 to:

- Help prevent cervical cancer and genital warts in females
- Help prevent anal cancer and genital warts in men

Breastfeeding women may get the vaccine.

Do NOT get the vaccine if you:

- have ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to yeast, any component of the HPV vaccine, or to a previous HPV vaccination
- are pregnant (it appears to be safe for mother and fetus but is still being studied.)

THREE IS THE KEY

You need **3 doses** of the vaccine in order for it to be effective. After the first dose, you will need to return 2 months later for the second dose, and then return again 4 months later (6 months from the first dose) for the third dose.



TODAY

IN 2 MONTHS

IN 6 MONTHS

Note: For girls and boys who receive their first dose of HPV vaccine before 15 years of age, only 2 doses are needed.

We will make all the appointments and write down the dates on the back of this brochure to help you remember your appointments. **It is extremely important for you to get all three doses on schedule.** If you absolutely must miss an appointment – please call us as soon as possible to reschedule.

Common Side Effects

- Pain at the injection site
- Redness or swelling at injection site
- Mild to moderate fever (100°F - 102°F/ 37.7°C- 38.9°C)
- Itching at the injection site

These symptoms do not last long and go away on their own.

Important Notes

- The HPV vaccine will **not** treat cervical cancer or genital warts if you already have them.
- Vaccination may not prevent all types of cervical cancer, so it is very important to continue regular cervical cancer screenings.
- Getting vaccinated will not protect you against diseases caused by HPV types to which you have already been exposed.
- **If you get signs of a serious allergic reaction after the injection (difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, fast heartbeat (palpitations), or dizziness call the doctor or go to the hospital right away.**

Keep this with you as an appointment reminder

Dose #1 Date/Time:

Dose #2 Date/Time:

Dose #3 Date/Time:

If you cannot make an appointment, please call us **as soon as possible** at **716-845-5855** to reschedule.

