

# HPV Vaccination: Just the FACTS



## HPV vaccination is cancer prevention.

HPV is short for human papillomavirus, a common virus. HPV can cause cancer in men and women. The HPV vaccine helps prevent the infections that lead to many HPV cancers.



## HPV vaccination is safe.

More than 270 million doses have been distributed around the world in the past 10 years, and there have been no serious safety concerns\*. The safety of vaccines, including the HPV vaccine, is continually watched by organizations in the US and around the world. All vaccines can have potential side effects, but reactions caused by the HPV vaccine have been mostly mild.



## The HPV vaccine is for boys and girls.

HPV vaccination is strongly recommended for boys and girls. The vaccine prevents infection with the most common types of HPV that can cause cervical, throat, vulvar, vaginal, penile and anal cancer.



## The HPV vaccine is recommended at age 11 or 12.

HPV vaccination is cancer prevention. By starting prevention at age 11 or 12, you offer the most HPV cancer prevention for your child.

Children are vaccinated before they're exposed to an infection – just like measles or pneumonia. HPV is so common that most people will catch it at some point in their lives.

HPV vaccination does not encourage or allow children to have sex earlier. Studies have shown there's no correlation between receiving the HPV vaccine and increased rates of, or earlier engagement in, sexual activity.

\*Adolescents with a severe allergy to yeast or any other vaccine component should not receive the HPV vaccine.

## 2x Two shots prevent cancer.

The HPV vaccine is given as a series of two shots 6 to 12 months apart. Doctors recommend that girls and boys get vaccinated against HPV at age 11 or 12. The series should be complete by age 13.

## Al The HPV vaccine does NOT contain harmful ingredients.

Parents who are concerned about vaccine ingredients are often worried about aluminum. People are exposed to aluminum every day through food and cooking utensils. Aluminum-containing vaccines have been used for decades and have been given to more than 1 billion people without problems.

## The HPV vaccine does NOT cause fertility issues.

No scientific studies show that getting the vaccine will have a negative effect on future fertility. Getting vaccinated protects against cervical cancer and can help ensure a woman's ability to get pregnant and have healthy babies.

---

# Get More Information

about HPV cancers and the vaccine at [cancer.org/hpv](http://cancer.org/hpv).

---

