



Why Age 9?

FACT SHEET

Every year in the United States, it is estimated that nearly 36,500 individuals are diagnosed with cancer caused by an HPV infection.¹ Human papillomavirus (HPV) cannot be treated, but there is a vaccine that can prevent transmission and protect against six cancers if initiated prior to exposure. HPV vaccination is a critical prevention tool, safeguarding children and adolescents against more than 90% of HPV cancers when given at recommended ages.¹ Because cancer prevention decreases as the age of vaccination increases, it is important to start early!

Why Age 9?

Starting the HPV vaccination series at age 9 is recommended by the American Cancer Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable. Previous guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine HPV vaccination at age 11 or 12 years but notes that the HPV vaccine can be given starting at age 9.


Recommended Vaccination Schedule Guideline



On Time
AGE 9-12
2 Doses
6-12 months apart



Late
AGES 13-14
2 Doses
6-12 months apart



Critical
AGES 15-26
3 Doses
1st dose at visit one
2nd dose 1-2 months later
3rd dose 6 months after 2nd



Know the Facts!



There are many benefits to initiating the HPV vaccine series at age 9. These include:

1
Offers more time for completion of the series by the age of 13

2
Results in a strong immune response to the HPV vaccine

3
Increases the likelihood of vaccinating prior to first HPV exposure

4
Decreases questions about sexual activity by parents and guardians

5
Decreases requests for only vaccines that are “required” for school

6
Decreases the number of administered shots per visit

7
Increases vaccinations and therefore the number of cancers prevented

8
Has been shown by several systems to increase vaccination rates

9
Has been shown to be highly acceptable to systems, providers, and parents

The HPV vaccine has been given for more than 15 years and provides long-lasting protection. The HPV vaccine is safe and effective, with no long-term side effects. In fact, 109 studies conducted among 2.5 million people in 6 countries have shown that there have been no serious side effects other than what is typical for all vaccines (i.e., allergic reactions, fainting).²



For more information, tools and resources, visit [HPV Vaccination Starts at Age 9 – National HPV Roundtable](#).

Footnotes:

1. HPV Cancers are Preventable. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated November 1, 2021. Retrieved August 2, 2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/protecting-patients.html>
2. Phillips A, Patel C, Pillsbury A, Brotherton J, Macartney K. Safety of Human Papillomavirus Vaccines: An Updated Review. *Drug Saf.* 2018;41(4):329-346. doi:10.1007/s40264-017-0625-z