



# HPV VACCINE IS CANCER PREVENTION

## HPV Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness

HPV vaccination provides safe, effective, and long-lasting protection against cancers caused by HPV.

### HPV vaccination prevents cancer

**Human papillomavirus (HPV) infects about 13 million people, including teens, each year.** While most HPV infections go away on their own, infections that don't go away can lead to certain types of cancer. Every year, about 36,000 men and women develop a cancer caused by HPV. **HPV vaccination could prevent more than 90% of these cancers from ever developing.** The vaccine is made from one protein from the virus and is not infectious, meaning it *cannot* cause HPV infection or cancer.

### HPV vaccination is safe

**With more than 135 million doses distributed in the United States, HPV vaccine has a reassuring safety record that is backed by over 15 years of monitoring and research.** As with all approved vaccines, CDC and FDA closely monitor the safety of HPV vaccines.

Any detected safety concerns are reported to health officials, healthcare professionals, and the public. Data continue to show that HPV vaccination is safe and effective.

### HPV vaccination works

**The HPV vaccine works extremely well.** Since HPV vaccination was introduced over in the U.S. in 2006, infections with HPV types that cause most HPV cancers and genital warts have dropped 88 percent among teen girls. Research has also shown that fewer women are developing cervical precancers (abnormal cells on the cervix that can lead to cancer).

### HPV vaccination provides long-lasting protection

**Studies show that the protection provided by HPV vaccine is long lasting.** People who received HPV vaccination remained protected from the virus for more than 10 years, with no evidence of the protection decreasing over time.

### HPV vaccination can have side effects

**Like any vaccine or medicine, HPV vaccination can have side effects.** The most common side effects are mild and include pain, redness, or swelling in the arm where the shot is given; dizziness, fainting, nausea, and headache. Fainting after any vaccine, including HPV vaccine, is more common among adolescents. To prevent fainting and injuries from fainting, anyone receiving HPV vaccine should be seated or lying down during vaccination and for 15 minutes after getting the shot.

### HPV vaccination doesn't negatively affect fertility

**HPV vaccine does not cause fertility problems.** However, not getting HPV vaccine leaves people vulnerable to HPV cancers and precancers. People who develop a cancer caused by HPV will need treatment that can sometimes limit their ability to have children, such as a hysterectomy, chemotherapy, or radiation. Treatment for cervical precancer could also put women at risk for problems with their cervix, which can sometimes cause preterm delivery.

### How can I get help paying for vaccines?

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides vaccines for children ages 18 years and younger, who are uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, American Indian or Alaska Native. Learn more at

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/parents/qa-detailed.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/parents/qa-detailed.html)