

## Who pays for the vaccine?

There are three ways to get the vaccine at little or no cost:

- 1 Health insurance** – if your child has any private health insurance.
- 2 Vaccines for Children program** – if your child is aged 18 and younger, enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan, uninsured or American Indian/Alaska Native.
- 3 Patient assistance programs** – talk to your provider about assistance programs for patients aged 19–26.

Your health care provider or the Oregon Immunization Program (971-673-0300) can answer your questions.



To find out more about screening, please call 971-673-0581 or visit <http://healthoregon.org/screenwise>

**Oregon**  
**Health**  
Authority  
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
Immunization Program

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# HPV INFECTION AND PREVENTION

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



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## What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is very common and easily spread. There are many types of HPV that can infect different areas of the body. Some types cause warts in the genital area and other types can lead to cancer on the cervix, vulva, anus, penis, mouth and throat.

## How common is HPV?

Nearly all people will be infected with HPV at some point in their life. Even if your child shows no symptoms, HPV can cause long-lasting health problems. It is best to see your doctor to get vaccinated and screened.

## Can HPV be harmful?

About 27,000 men and women get cancer because of HPV each year. That's a new case every 20 minutes! HPV causes more than 4,000 cervical cancer deaths in women each year.

## How does it spread?

The most common way to get HPV is through sexual contact, but this is NOT the only way it can be spread. HPV can also be spread by skin-to-skin contact of infected areas.



## Is the vaccine safe?

Yes. More than 50 million doses have been given in the U.S. No serious safety concerns have been found. The vaccines are very effective at preventing HPV.

## Does my child need the vaccine?

HPV vaccine is recommended for all children starting at age 11 to stop HPV infection well before your child might be exposed. The vaccine can be given as early as age 9 for both girls and boys.

Your son or daughter should still start the three-dose vaccine series even if they are older than 11. It is NOT too late to start. Both girls and boys can receive the vaccine up to age 26.

## About HPV and cervical cancer

HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer. About 12,000 women in the U.S. (134 in Oregon) will get cervical cancer each year. All women can get cervical cancer but it usually affects women aged 30 and older. One of three women who get cervical cancer will not survive.

## Ways to prevent HPV

- There is no treatment for HPV
- The best way to prevent HPV is to get the vaccine.
  - » This vaccine has already reduced the number of teenage girls who have HPV by almost two-thirds.\*
- Getting a Pap test and a HPV test is the best way to find HPV early.
  - » Women aged 21 and older may be eligible for free cervical cancer screenings through the ScreenWise Program.

## HPV vaccine schedule

Age at first dose	Vaccine dose 1	Vaccine dose 2	Vaccine dose 3
9-14 Years	Now	6-12 months	Not Needed*
15-26 Years	Now	1-2 months after dose 1	6 months after dose 1

\*if series is initiated before age 15 and there is at least 5 months between doses then only two doses are needed.