



# 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. HPV vaccination 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 since 2006, and safety studies continue to show that HPV vaccination is very safe. 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 and like those of other vaccines.



## The HPV vaccine is for boys and girls.

HPV vaccination is strongly recommended for boys and girls. The vaccine helps prevent 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.

## 2x Two shots help prevent cancer.

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

Vaccination can start at age 9 and should be complete by age 13. If vaccinated late, three shots may be needed.

## 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 helps protect against cervical cancer and can help ensure a woman's ability to get pregnant and have healthy babies.

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# Get more information

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

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