

Important information about HPV and the HPV vaccine

- Human papillomaviruses (HPV) are very common. There are about 40 HPV types that can infect the genital area. Most HPV infections are not visible, cause no symptoms and go away on their own. But in some people, they can cause genital warts, pre-cancers of the cervix (detected by routine Pap tests) and cervical cancer.
- The HPV vaccine can prevent abnormal Pap tests and cervical cancer.
- HPV vaccine may not fully protect everyone and does not prevent all cervical cancer.
- HPV vaccine **does not** take the place of regular Pap tests, which are the only way to effectively screen for cervical cancer.
- HPV vaccine is recommended for girls 11-12 years of age, and can safely be administered to girls as young as 9 years of age. It is also effective in young women between 13 and 18 years of age who have not had sex and do not have HPV.

Is the HPV vaccine recommended for boys?

- HPV vaccine is currently not recommended for boys.

Where can I get more information?

- Talk to your doctor or a school nurse
- **National Cancer Institute**
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccines for Cervical Cancer: (800) 422-6237
<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/hpv-vaccines>
- **CDC HPV Web Site, HHS**
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/>
- **American Social Health Association**
<http://www.ashastd.org/>



HPV vaccine and your daughter



New Mexico
Department of Health
<http://www.health.state.nm.us/immunize/>

What is HPV?

- HPV stands for human papillomavirus, the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States. Most people get HPV within several months of becoming sexually active.

At least 80% of sexually active people get HPV at some time in their lives

- Most people who have HPV do not show any signs or symptoms, so the virus can be passed on without even knowing it. Anyone who has sexual activity with an infected person can get HPV.
- Certain strains of HPV can cause cervical cancer. Every year there are about 10,000 new cervical cancer cases and 3,500 cervical cancer deaths. Other strains of HPV cause genital warts, but do not cause cervical cancer.

How can HPV be prevented?

- You can protect yourself against HPV by avoiding any sexual contact. Condoms can provide some protection if used all the time and correctly. But HPV can infect areas that are not covered by condoms, so condoms may not fully protect against HPV. Another way to protect yourself from HPV is to get the HPV vaccine.

Tell me more about the vaccine

- The HPV vaccine was licensed as safe and effective. No serious side effects have been found in females receiving the vaccine. The vaccine is given in the upper arm. The most common side effects are soreness, itching, redness and mild swelling at the shot site. Fever, nausea and dizziness occur in some people.
- The HPV vaccine is given in a series of three shots over a six-month period.
- The length of vaccine protection is currently not known. Studies show that fully vaccinated persons are protected for at least five years against the HPV types that are included in the vaccines.
- Women who are pregnant should not receive the HPV vaccine.
- HPV vaccines do not contain thimerosal, mercury, or other preservatives.

HPV vaccine is safe and effective

How do I know if The HPV vaccine is right for my daughter?

- Only you, your daughter and your doctor or healthcare professional can decide if HPV vaccine is right for your daughter.
- The vaccine **will not** treat existing HPV infections or their complications. Young women should receive HPV vaccine before they are sexually active.
- HPV vaccine **does not** take the place of regular Pap tests. Pap tests are the only way to screen for cervical cancer. Your daughter's doctor or healthcare professional can tell you when she should get her first Pap test.

Every year about 10 million people are infected with HPV

Is the HPV vaccine required?

- The HPV vaccine is not currently required, but is **recommended for all 11 and 12 year old girls.**