

School Entry Requirements for HPV Vaccine

What's Known

For more than a decade, school entry requirements for HPV vaccine have generated substantial discussion.

- At least 42 US jurisdictions have introduced legislation to require HPV vaccine, fund the vaccine, or educate the public or school children about it.¹
- Only four jurisdictions currently require HPV vaccine for school entry: Rhode Island, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia (DC).¹ Opt-out provisions vary, and only the Rhode Island requirement includes boys.
- Most parents and other stakeholders support school entry requirements for HPV vaccine, but only when lenient opt-out provisions are included.²⁻⁴
- Early evaluations found little evidence that school entry requirements increased HPV vaccine uptake,⁵⁻⁶ perhaps because requirements were undermined by lenient opt-out provisions.

What's New

Discussion of school entry requirements for HPV vaccine has continued in recent years, with stakeholders debating the ethical, political, and legal implications of these policies.⁷⁻⁸ Such debates are likely to continue in light of recent research suggesting that school entry requirements can be effective.

- A recent study found Rhode Island's school entry requirement to be associated with an 11% increase in HPV vaccine initiation for boys, but not girls.⁹
- Other jurisdictions with school entry requirements have high HPV vaccine coverage (DC 78%, Virginia 59%) compared to the nation as a whole (49%),¹⁰ but the extent to which this performance is due to school entry requirements is unknown.

What's Next

Further consideration of school entry requirements for HPV vaccine may be important for some states, and the broader literature on school entry requirements can provide guidance.¹¹ Key considerations include:

- Whether current rates are high enough to support requirements;
- Strategies for financing and implementation;
- The definition and use of exemptions;
- Strategies for addressing stakeholder concerns including concerns that introducing a new requirement will put existing requirements at risk; and
- Enacting or tightening requirements for other adolescent vaccines to make use of “spillover effects,” whereby these requirements improve HPV vaccination.⁵

¹ National Conference of State Legislators. HPV vaccine: state legislation and statutes. 2018. Available at: <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/hpv-vaccine-state-legislation-and-statutes.aspx>.

² Califano S, Calo WA, Weinberger M, Gilkey MB, Brewer NT. Physician support of HPV vaccination school-entry requirements. *Hum Vaccin Immunother*. 2016;12(6):1626-32.

³ Calo WA, Gilkey MB, Shah PD, Moss JL, Brewer NT. Parents' support for school-entry requirements for human papillomavirus vaccination: a national study. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2016;25(9):1317-25.

⁴ Robitz R, Gottlieb SL, De Rosa CJ, Guerry SL, Liddon N, Zaidi A, et al. Parent attitudes about school requirements for human papillomavirus vaccine in high-risk communities of Los Angeles, California. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2011; 20:1421-1429

⁵ Moss JL, Reiter PL, Truong YK, Rimer BK, Brewer NT. School Entry Requirements and Coverage of Nontargeted Adolescent Vaccines. *Pediatrics*. 2016;138(6). pii: e20161414.

⁶ Perkins RB, Lin M, Wallington SF, Hanchate AD. Impact of school-entry and education mandates by states on HPV vaccination coverage: Analysis of the 2009-2013 National Immunization Survey-Teen. *Hum Vaccin Immunother*. 2016 Jun 2;12(6):1615-22.

⁷ Bayefsky MJ, Gostin LO. Requiring Human Papillomavirus Vaccination for School Entry. *JAMA Pediatr*. 2019 Feb 1;173(2):123-124.

⁸ Daley E, Thompson E, Zimet G. Human Papillomavirus Vaccination and School Entry Requirements: Politically Challenging, but Not Impossible. *JAMA Pediatr*. 2019;173(1):6-7.

⁹ Thompson EL, Livingston MD 3rd, Daley EM, Zimet GD. Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Initiation for Adolescents Following Rhode Island's School-Entry Requirement, 2010-2016. *Am J Public Health*. 2018;108(10):1421-1423.

¹⁰ Walker TY, Elam-Evans LD, Yankey D, Markowitz LE, Williams CL, Mbaeyi SA, Fredua B, Stokley S. National, regional, state, and selected local area vaccination coverage among adolescents aged 13-17 years - United States, 2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2018;67(33):909-917.

¹¹ Omer SB, Betsch C, Leask J. Mandate vaccination with care. *Nature*. 2019 Jul;571(7766):469-472.



The HPV Vaccination Roundtable convenes, communicates with, and catalyzes member organizations to increase HPV vaccination rates and prevent HPV cancers.

Learn more at hpvroundtable.org.