

# 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.<sup>1</sup>
- Only four jurisdictions currently require HPV vaccine for school entry: Rhode Island, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia (DC).<sup>1</sup> Opt-out provisions vary. The requirement for Virginia is only for girls, while the others are for both boys and girls.
- Most parents and other stakeholders support school entry requirements for HPV vaccine, but only when lenient opt-out provisions are included.<sup>2-4</sup>
- Early evaluations found little evidence that school entry requirements increased HPV vaccine uptake,<sup>5-6</sup> 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.<sup>7-8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>
- Other jurisdictions with school entry requirements have high HPV vaccine coverage (DC 78%, Virginia 59%) compared to the nation as a whole (49%),<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

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

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.**

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