

August 15, 2022

Dear Healthcare System, Provider, Clinical Staff, and Partners,

The American Cancer Society has set an HPV vaccine series completion goal of 80% for adolescents aged 13 by 2026. This supersedes Healthy People 2030 goals to increase the percentage of adolescents aged 13-15 years old to have received the recommended doses of HPV vaccine to 80%. We take an aggressive stance towards this endeavor because HPV vaccination is cancer prevention.

Starting the HPV vaccination series at age 9 is recommended by the American Cancer Society, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable (HPVRT), which includes leading thought experts from clinical, public health, and academic research institutions. Previous guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends routine HPV vaccination at age 11 or 12 years but notes that HPV vaccination can be given starting at age 9 years old.

There are many benefits to initiating the HPV vaccine series at age 9. These include:

1. Offers more time for completion of the series by age 13
2. Results in a strong immune response to the HPV vaccine
3. Increases the likelihood of vaccinating prior to first HPV exposure
4. Decreases questions about sexual activity by parents and guardians
5. Decreases requests for only vaccines that are “required” for school
6. Decreases the number of administered shots per visit
7. Increases vaccinations and therefore the number of cancers prevented
8. Has been shown by several systems to increase vaccination rates
9. Has been shown to be highly acceptable to systems, providers, and parents

Unfortunately, during the COVID-19 pandemic, administration of HPV vaccines fell between 20-24% in 2020 and modeling predicts up to 10 years for recovery. However, you can help us. We encourage everyone to move towards the standardized practice of routinely recommending HPV vaccination at 9 years of age and ask for the support of each of you in this endeavor.

Our Call to Action:

1. Share this commitment to increase HPV vaccinations in children and adolescents with other providers and stakeholders in your area.
2. Create a plan and implement the structural changes needed within your organization to start vaccinating at age 9.
3. Utilize our resources, including our [HPV vaccination starts at Age 9](#) core messages and communication toolboxes.

Thank you,



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