

Kentucky ranks **37th** in the country for vaccinating our adolescents against HPV.

We need your help.



FIGHT



Kentucky Health Provider,

As an organization dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of our communities, we write to draw your attention to an important matter - the persistently low HPV vaccination rates among adolescents in Kentucky. According to the most up-to-date state ranking from the CDC, Kentucky sits at 37th. Simply put, we are falling behind in our efforts to protect youth from the risks posed by HPV infections and **six related cancers**. Through collaboration across the entire health ecosystem, we can drive positive change and create a healthier future for the youth of our state by prioritizing HPV vaccinations.



The Basics & Benefits: The vaccine is administered as a 2-dose series, with the ideal completion timeframe being before the 13th birthday. The HPV vaccination holds numerous benefits in terms of cancer prevention, extending beyond cervical cancer to encompass several other specific types of cancers like vulvar, vaginal, anal, penile, and certain throat cancers. In fact, by ensuring boys and girls ages 9-12 receive the series, more than 90% of HPV cancers can be prevented.



The Importance of Early Vaccination: Both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Cancer Society recommend beginning the HPV series at age 9. The immune response to the vaccine is most robust between ages 9-12. This provides better, long-lasting protection against HPV infections and related cancers. Completing the vaccine at age 10 will reduce the number of vaccinations required at 11 years old.



Safety and Effectiveness: The HPV vaccine has undergone rigorous testing, proving to be safe and highly effective in preventing HPV infections and the associated cancers. Serious side effects are rare, and the most common reactions are mild, such as soreness at the injection site.



Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Medicaid Pays for Vaccines and Vaccine Administration Fees:

HPV vaccines are provided to clinics through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. More information on how to become a VFC provider is available [here](#). Providers who are not VFC providers may access fee schedules [here](#).



Research has shown provider recommendation is the #1 reason for convincing parents to vaccinate their children against HPV.

By working together and prioritizing HPV vaccination, we can profoundly impact health in the Commonwealth. For more information, we encourage you to check out the American Academy of Pediatrics guide on how to recommend the HPV vaccine [here](#). Thank you for your unwavering commitment to health. Together, we can create a better future for the youth of our state.

