

# New York State “Start at 9” Call to Action to Prevent HPV Cancers

August 2024

## NYS organizations that have endorsed starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9

- American Academy of Pediatrics, NY
- Academy of Family Physicians, NY
- The Nurse Practitioner Association NYS
- NYS Society of Physician Associates
- New York State Department of Health
- American Cancer Society
- Community Healthcare Assoc. of NYS
- County Health Officials of New York State
- New York School Based Health Alliance
- New York State Public Health Association
- New York State Cancer Consortium
- NYS Association for Rural Health
- NYS School-Based Health Alliance
- New York State Dental Foundation
- New York State Dental Association
- Cancer Ctr., Columbia U. Irving Med. Ctr.
- Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield HealthPlus
- Independent Health
- Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan
- New York City Health and Hospitals
- Northwell Health Cancer Institute
- UR Medicine/Golisano Children’s Hosp.
- NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene
- North Country Family Health Center
- Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital
- Erie County Medical Center
- Great Lakes Cancer Care Collaborative
- Catholic Health Cancer Institute
- St Lawrence County Health Initiative
- Stony Brook Medicine
- Suffolk County Depart. of Health Services
- UR Accountable Health Partners
- Bassett Healthcare Network
- Genesee and Orleans County DOH
- Erie County Department of Health
- Orange County Department of Health
- Westchester Medical Center
- Putnam County Department of Health
- Jefferson County Department of Health
- Family Health Centers and NYU Langone
- Westchester Department of Health
- Fulton County Department of Health
- Anthony L. Jordan Health Corporation
- St. Lawrence County DOH
- Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Ctr.

Dear Provider:

HPV infection affects about 85 percent of the population and can cause 6 types of cancer, including cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal, and oropharyngeal cancer, as well as genital warts.<sup>1</sup> Approximately twenty-nine hundred New Yorkers are diagnosed with an HPV-related cancer each year.<sup>2</sup>

The HPV vaccine, which is recommended to adolescents between ages 9 and 12, is safe and extremely effective in preventing HPV infections and cancers. Recent studies confirm that “on-time” series completion is critical to maximize efficacy against HPV cancers.<sup>7</sup> Unfortunately, less than 40% of 13-year-old adolescents in NYS have completed the HPV vaccine series leaving most of that age group unprotected from future HPV cancers.<sup>3</sup>

### That is why we need your help.

As a health care provider, you can help increase HPV vaccination rates by talking to parents or guardians about the importance of the vaccine to reduce the risk of HPV-related cancers. Indeed, evidence shows that a strong provider recommendation is among the most persuasive reasons parents choose to vaccinate their children.

The latest research also suggests that starting the HPV vaccination series at age 9 can increase the percentage of your patients that are up to date by age 13.<sup>4</sup> The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Cancer Society, and the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable also recommend starting the series at age 9. This strategy is consistent with the ACIP recommendation, stating the HPV series can start at age 9.<sup>4</sup>

Other reasons cited for starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9 include:<sup>5</sup>

- Provides more time for completion of the series.
- Decreases concerns about the vaccine increasing sexual activity.
- Decreases requests for only the “school-required vaccines.”
- Increases the likelihood of full vaccination before first HPV exposure.
- Is highly acceptable to systems, providers, and parents.

Nationally, one in five vaccinating providers are already administering the HPV vaccine at ages 9 to 10 and half are willing to recommend it at age 9.<sup>6</sup> *Learn more about starting at age 9 at <https://hpvroundtable.org/start-hpv-vaccination-at-age-9>*

**Recommend starting HPV vaccination at age 9 today!**

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/stdfact-hpv.htm> Accessed 1/27/23.

<sup>2</sup> New York State Department of Health. New York State Cancer Registry. [Data provisional](#). November 2021.

<sup>3</sup> New York State Department of Health. [NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard](#).

<sup>4</sup> National HPV Vaccination Roundtable. [Evidence Summary: HPV Vaccination at 9-12 Years of Age](#).

<sup>5</sup> O’Leary S, Nyquist A. [Why AAP recommends initiating HPV vaccination as early as possible](#).

<sup>6</sup> Kong et al. Recommending HPV vaccination at age 9: A national survey of primary care professionals. *Academic Pediatrics*. 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Falcaro M, et al. *Lancet*, 2021; 398:2084-2092. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)02178-4/abstract?ref=thepeak.thebreasties.org](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)02178-4/abstract?ref=thepeak.thebreasties.org)