



START AT AGE 9 TOOLKIT



NATIONAL
HPV
VACCINATION
ROUNDTABLE



Dear National HPV Roundtable Partner,

Thank you for your continued focus on increasing human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic led to substantial declines in HPV vaccinations among adolescents. Current projections estimate that it could take up to 10 years after the pandemic to rebound unless we act proactively. Therefore, we need your help.

To help increase HPV vaccination rates, the American Cancer Society (ACS) National HPV Vaccination Roundtable has developed this *Start at Age 9 Toolkit*, which can be used in your practice. We are excited to support your efforts with these print-ready resources, including:

- **Why Age 9? fact sheet:** This document is for staff and patient education. It highlights the benefits of starting the HPV vaccine series at the recommended ages.
- **Don't Wait to Vaccinate infographic:** This patient-focused infographic can be given to parents or displayed throughout your practice.
- **Prevention Matters! infographic:** This patient-focused infographic encourages parents and guardians to make sure their child gets the HPV vaccine. It explains what HPV is and how the vaccine can help protect children from HPV-related cancers.
- **Cue cards for clinic staff:** These cards are for staff education and can be displayed in workspaces or at the front desk. Many practices have found them helpful as quick reference guides when conversing with parents about vaccinating their children.
 - *Special acknowledgments to the WA HPV Free Taskforce for creating this resource*
- **HPV reminder cards and vaccination schedule:** These are patient-focused and can be given to a parent as reminders about when their child received the HPV vaccine and when the next appointment is scheduled.

Visit the ACS National HPV Vaccination Roundtable website at hpvrroundtable.org to download and print these and other resources. Be sure to include the hpvrroundtable.org website address on any materials that you use. And visit cancer.org/languages for cancer information in 13 other languages.

Please reach out to hpv.vaccination.roundtable@cancer.org if you have questions or success stories you'd like to share.

Thank you for your partnership in our efforts to increase HPV vaccination rates and help prevent HPV-related cancers.

ACS National HPV Vaccination Roundtable Team



Why Age 9?

FACT SHEET



Every year in the United States, about 39,300 new cases of cancer are caused by a human papillomavirus (HPV) infection.¹ HPV cannot be treated, but the HPV vaccine can help prevent transmission and protect against 6 cancers if started as recommended before exposure. The HPV vaccine is a critical prevention tool, safeguarding children and adolescents against more than 90% of HPV cancers when it is given at recommended ages.² Because cancer prevention decreases as the age of vaccination increases, starting as early as age 9 is important.

Why age 9?

Starting the HPV vaccination series at age 9 is recommended by the American Cancer Society (ACS), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the ACS National HPV Vaccination Roundtable. Previous guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends routine HPV vaccination at age 11 or 12 years but notes that the HPV vaccine can be given starting at age 9.

Recommended Vaccination Schedule Guideline



Late
Ages 13-14
2 doses
6-12 months apart



As soon as possible

Ages 15-26
3 doses

1st dose at visit one
2nd dose 1-2 months later
3rd dose 6 months after 1st dose





Know the Facts!

Starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9 has many benefits, including:

1
Offers more time to complete 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

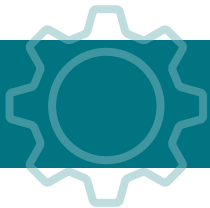
6
Decreases the number of shots needed per visit

7
Increases vaccinations and therefore the number of cancers prevented

8
Has been shown by several systems to increase vaccination rates

9
Is highly acceptable to systems, providers, and parents

The HPV vaccine has been given for more than 20 years and provides long-lasting protection. The HPV vaccine is safe and effective. It has been shown to have no serious or long-term side effects, other than what is typical for all vaccines (i.e., allergic reactions, fainting).³



Visit [ACS National HPV Vaccination Roundtable – Start HPV Vaccination at Age 9](#) for more information, tools, and resources.

1. Cancers Linked with HPV Each Year. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/cases.html>. Updated December 3, 2025. Accessed March 30, 2026.

2. Islami F, Marlow ET, B Thomson, et al. Proportion and number of cancer cases and deaths attributable to potentially modifiable risk factors in the United States, 2019. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2024;74(5):405-432. doi:10.3322/caac.21858. Accessed April 15, 2026.

3. Markowitz LE, Unger ER. Human Papillomavirus Vaccination. *N Engl J Med.* 2023;388(19):1790-1798. doi: 10.1056/NEJMcp2108502.

Don't Wait to Vaccinate



Mission
HPV Cancer Free
cancer.org/hpv

Did you know...

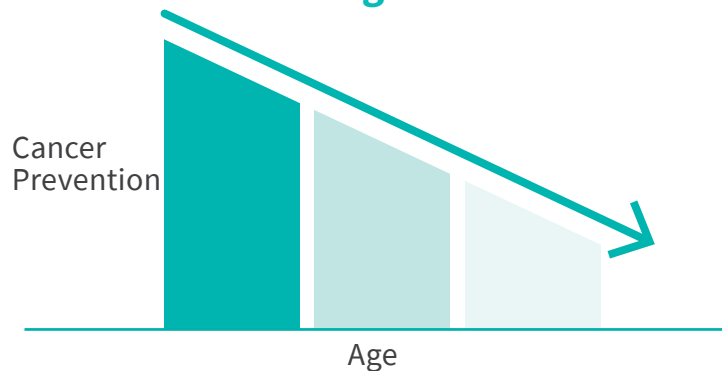
The American Cancer Society recommends that all children get vaccinated against HPV between the ages of **9 and 12**. **The vaccine helps prevent 6 types of cancer.**



Age matters.

When you vaccinate your child on time, you help protect them from HPV cancers. **The HPV vaccine works best when given before age 13.** **Getting the vaccine at the recommended ages will help prevent more cancers than getting the vaccine at older ages.**

The HPV vaccine can help prevent more than 90% of HPV cancers when given on time.



On time Ages 9-12

2 doses
6-12 months
apart



Late Ages 13-14

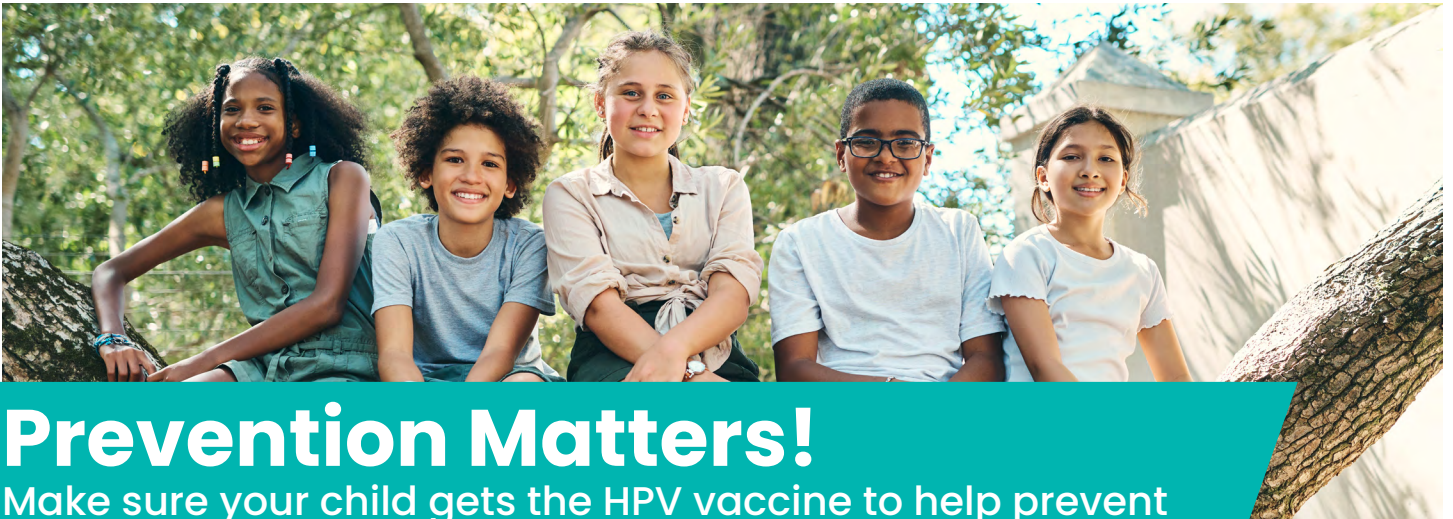
2 doses
6-12 months
apart



As soon as possible Ages 15-26

3 doses
1st dose at visit one
2nd dose 1-2 months later
3rd dose 6 months
after 1st dose



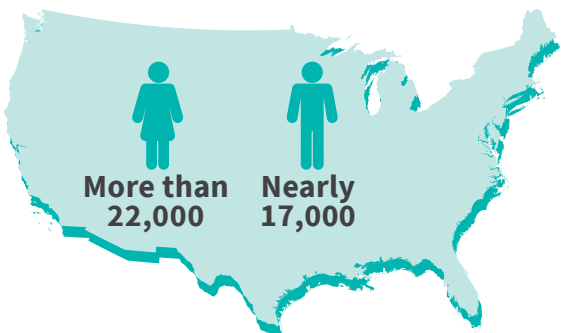


Prevention Matters!

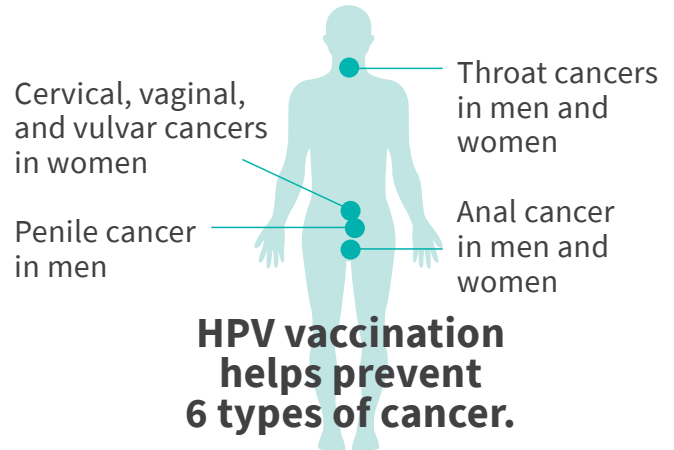
Make sure your child gets the HPV vaccine to help prevent HPV cancers.

HPV is a serious problem.

The human papillomavirus, or HPV, can cause several cancers. The HPV vaccine can help protect against this virus and the cancers it can cause.

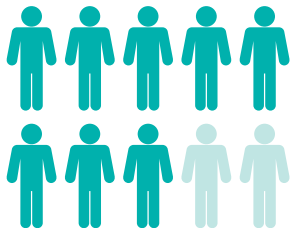


More than 39,000 men and women get HPV cancers in the United States each year. **Don't let your child be one of them.**



HPV is very common.

Eight out of 10 people will get HPV at some point in their lives.



HPV infections are very common in those who aren't vaccinated. Most infected people do not know it. **The best way to help prevent HPV infection is to get vaccinated.**

Most HPV infections go away on their own without lasting health problems. There is no way to know which infections will turn into cancer. **That is why it is important that all children get vaccinated against HPV.**

HPV vaccination is cancer prevention.

The HPV vaccine can help prevent **more than 90%** of HPV cancers when given on-time.

When does my child need the HPV vaccine?



The American Cancer Society recommends the HPV vaccine for all children ages 9 through 12.

Vaccination helps protect children before they are exposed to a virus. On-time vaccination between ages 9-12 means your child will receive two doses given 6-12 months apart.

Teens who start the series late may need 3 shots.



What else should I know?

Most health insurance covers the cost of the HPV vaccine. Check with your insurance company to make sure.

The HPV vaccine is part of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. This program covers the cost of the HPV vaccine in children ages 18 or younger who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Visit cancer.org/HPV to get more information about the HPV vaccine.

The HPV vaccine is one of the recommended vaccines that all preteens need.

- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine
- HPV

Other vaccines may be recommended for high-risk groups or based on shared decision-making with your child's doctor.

HPV vaccination is safe and effective.

Scientists and health organizations around the world closely monitor HPV vaccine safety and have found no safety concerns. Their studies have also shown that the HPV vaccine provides lifelong protection against 6 types of cancers.

Talk with your child's doctor today about scheduling appointments.

1st dose:

2nd dose:

3rd dose (if needed):

Clinic Name
(XXX) XXX-XXXX

Vaccinate your child today to help protect them from future preventable HPV cancers.



Mission
HPV Cancer Free

cancer.org | 1.800.227.2345

This resource was supported in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's NOA Award 6 NU38PW000015-02-03.
©2026, American Cancer Society, Inc. No. 0323.26 Rev. 4/26

HPV Vaccine: It's Cancer Prevention

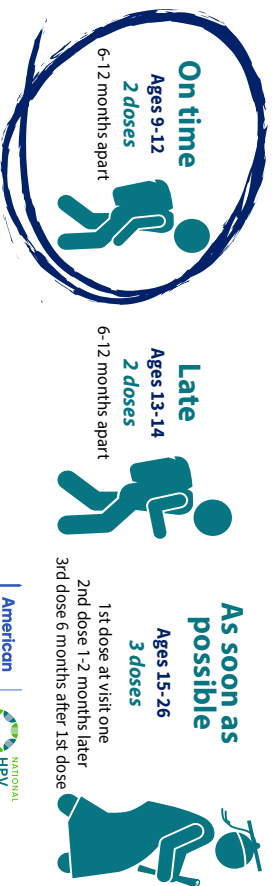
Who? All children should get the vaccine starting at age 9.

What? The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is a cancer prevention vaccine.

Why?

- The HPV vaccine prevents 6 different cancers (mouth/throat, cervix, vulva, vagina, penis, and anus).
- The HPV vaccine prevents most genital warts.
- The HPV vaccine is safe and effective, with no long-term side effects.
- The HPV vaccine has been given for more than 20 years and provides long-lasting protection.

When?



Special acknowledgements to the VA HPV Free Taskforce for the creation of this resource.



HPV Vaccine: It's Cancer Prevention

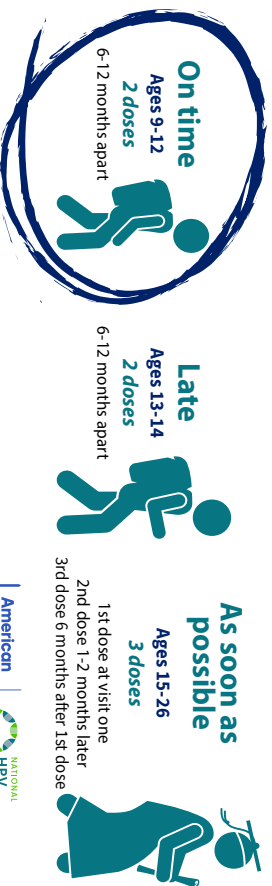
Who? All children should get the vaccine starting at age 9.

What? The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is a cancer prevention vaccine.

Why?

- The HPV vaccine prevents 6 different cancers (mouth/throat, cervix, vulva, vagina, penis, and anus).
- The HPV vaccine prevents most genital warts.
- The HPV vaccine is safe and effective, with no long-term side effects.
- The HPV vaccine has been given for more than 20 years and provides long-lasting protection.

When?



Special acknowledgements to the VA HPV Free Taskforce for the creation of this resource.



HPV Vaccine: It's Cancer Prevention

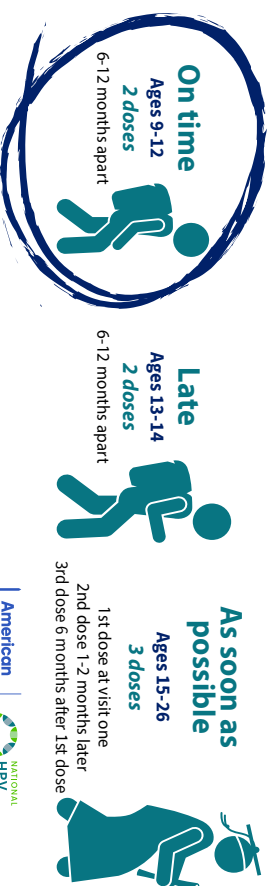
Who? All children should get the vaccine starting at age 9.

What? The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is a cancer prevention vaccine.

Why?

- The HPV vaccine prevents 6 different cancers (mouth/throat, cervix, vulva, vagina, penis, and anus).
- The HPV vaccine prevents most genital warts.
- The HPV vaccine is safe and effective, with no long-term side effects.
- The HPV vaccine has been given for more than 20 years and provides long-lasting protection.

When?



Special acknowledgements to the VA HPV Free Taskforce for the creation of this resource.



HPV Vaccine: It's Cancer Prevention

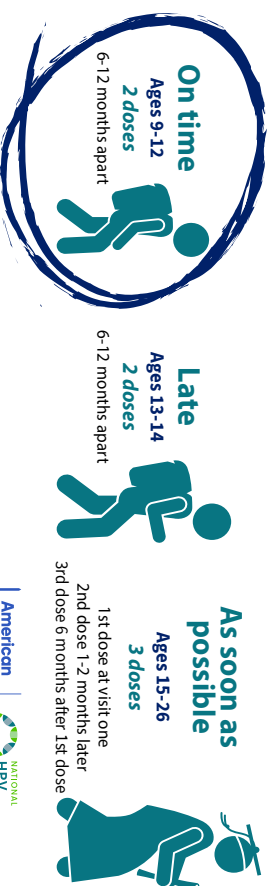
Who? All children should get the vaccine starting at age 9.

What? The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is a cancer prevention vaccine.

Why?

- The HPV vaccine prevents 6 different cancers (mouth/throat, cervix, vulva, vagina, penis, and anus).
- The HPV vaccine prevents most genital warts.
- The HPV vaccine is safe and effective, with no long-term side effects.
- The HPV vaccine has been given for more than 20 years and provides long-lasting protection.

When?



Special acknowledgements to the VA HPV Free Taskforce for the creation of this resource.



HPV Vaccination – Start at Age 9

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____ Medical # _____

Vaccinate your child starting at age 9 to help protect them from human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers. Keep this card with you to ensure your child is vaccinated on time. Record the dates on the back side of this card.



HPV Vaccination – Start at Age 9

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____ Medical # _____

Vaccinate your child starting at age 9 to help protect them from human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers. Keep this card with you to ensure your child is vaccinated on time. Record the dates on the back side of this card.



HPV Vaccination – Start at Age 9

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____ Medical # _____

Vaccinate your child starting at age 9 to help protect them from human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers. Keep this card with you to ensure your child is vaccinated on time. Record the dates on the back side of this card.



HPV Vaccination – Start at Age 9

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____ Medical # _____

Vaccinate your child starting at age 9 to help protect them from human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers. Keep this card with you to ensure your child is vaccinated on time. Record the dates on the back side of this card.



HPV Vaccination – Start at Age 9

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____ Medical # _____

Vaccinate your child starting at age 9 to help protect them from human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers. Keep this card with you to ensure your child is vaccinated on time. Record the dates on the back side of this card.



HPV Vaccination – Start at Age 9

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____ Medical # _____

Vaccinate your child starting at age 9 to help protect them from human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers. Keep this card with you to ensure your child is vaccinated on time. Record the dates on the back side of this card.



HPV Vaccination – Start at Age 9

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____ Medical # _____

Vaccinate your child starting at age 9 to help protect them from human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers. Keep this card with you to ensure your child is vaccinated on time. Record the dates on the back side of this card.



HPV Vaccination – Start at Age 9

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____ Medical # _____

Vaccinate your child starting at age 9 to help protect them from human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers. Keep this card with you to ensure your child is vaccinated on time. Record the dates on the back side of this card.



HPV Vaccination – Start at Age 9

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____ Medical # _____

Vaccinate your child starting at age 9 to help protect them from human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers. Keep this card with you to ensure your child is vaccinated on time. Record the dates on the back side of this card.



HPV Vaccination – Start at Age 9

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____ Medical # _____

Vaccinate your child starting at age 9 to help protect them from human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers. Keep this card with you to ensure your child is vaccinated on time. Record the dates on the back side of this card.



Record of HPV Vaccinations

Dose 1 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 2 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 3 Date _____ Clinic _____

3 doses if initiated at or after age 15

Visit cancer.org/hpv for more information.

Record of HPV Vaccinations

Dose 1 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 2 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 3 Date _____ Clinic _____

3 doses if initiated at or after age 15

Visit cancer.org/hpv for more information.

Record of HPV Vaccinations

Dose 1 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 2 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 3 Date _____ Clinic _____

3 doses if initiated at or after age 15

Visit cancer.org/hpv for more information.

Record of HPV Vaccinations

Dose 1 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 2 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 3 Date _____ Clinic _____

3 doses if initiated at or after age 15

Visit cancer.org/hpv for more information.

Record of HPV Vaccinations

Dose 1 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 2 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 3 Date _____ Clinic _____

3 doses if initiated at or after age 15

Visit cancer.org/hpv for more information.

Record of HPV Vaccinations

Dose 1 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 2 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 3 Date _____ Clinic _____

3 doses if initiated at or after age 15

Visit cancer.org/hpv for more information.

Record of HPV Vaccinations

Dose 1 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 2 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 3 Date _____ Clinic _____

3 doses if initiated at or after age 15

Visit cancer.org/hpv for more information.

Record of HPV Vaccinations

Dose 1 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 2 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 3 Date _____ Clinic _____

3 doses if initiated at or after age 15

Visit cancer.org/hpv for more information.

Record of HPV Vaccinations

Dose 1 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 2 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 3 Date _____ Clinic _____

3 doses if initiated at or after age 15

Visit cancer.org/hpv for more information.

Record of HPV Vaccinations

Dose 1 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 2 Date _____ Clinic _____

Dose 3 Date _____ Clinic _____

3 doses if initiated at or after age 15

Visit cancer.org/hpv for more information.