

Things Parents Should Know About Preventing Cancer^{*}

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination is the best way to prevent some types of cancer.

- 80% of people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime.
- HPV infections can cause **six types of cancer**.
- **31,200 cases of cancer** could be prevented with HPV vaccination each year.

HPV vaccination is reducing HPV disease.

- Infections with HPV types that cause most HPV cancers and genital warts **have dropped 71%** among teen girls.

HPV vaccination is recommended at ages 11 or 12.

- HPV vaccination is recommended for **both girls and boys**.

Talk to your child's health care provider about HPV immunization and cancer prevention.





HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention**

- HPV vaccine can prevent some types of cancer and genital warts.
- Your child doesn't have to have sex to catch HPV, but sex increases their risk.
- It's best to have your child vaccinated before they ever have sex.
- You're not opening the door to sex; you're closing the door to cancer.*
- HPV vaccination is recommended for people ages 9 through 26. Even though it is ideal to get the HPV vaccine at age 11–12, it is still highly effective in teens and young adults.

Talk to your child's health care provider about when your child should be vaccinated.

Age at First Dose	Dose #2	Dose #3
9 years until 15th birthday	6–12 months after dose #1	Not needed
15 years or older	1–2 months after dose #1	Approximately 4 months after dose #2



*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens

**Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), www.immunize.org

This information is intended to provide general information only and is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider regarding your medical condition(s). Coverage for medical services described herein is subject to the terms of your health plan benefit agreement and network coverage varies by plan. Check your member materials for details.

For Highmark health plan members call Blues on Call at 1-888-BLUE-428. BluesOn Call is a service mark of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

Highmark Blue Shield is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.