HPV* Vaccine

A Guide for Young Adults

❖ human papillomavirus

HPV is a very common virus that can lead to:

▸ **Cancers of the mouth and throat**

▸ **Cancer of the cervix**

▸ **Cancer of the penis, vagina, vulva, or anus**

▸ **Genital warts**

HPV vaccine can prevent these!

Do I really need HPV vaccine? Yes!

You should get HPV vaccine because it can prevent some types of cancer and genital warts.

Do I need it if I haven't had sex yet? Yes!

- You don't have to have sex to catch HPV, but sex increases your risk.
- You can get HPV by skin-to-skin intimate contact.
- People can get and spread HPV without knowing it.
- It's best to get vaccinated before you ever have sex.

Should I get HPV vaccine if I've already had sex? Yes!

You still need to get vaccinated even if you have had sex. The vaccine provides a lot of protection.

Why do I need more than 1 shot?

You need a series of HPV shots to be fully protected.

I didn't get the vaccine at age 11 or 12. Should I get it now? Yes!

HPV vaccination is recommended for people ages 9 through 26. Even though it is ideal to get HPV vaccine at age 11–12, it is still highly effective in teens and young adults.

Is HPV vaccine safe? Yes!

- Millions of doses of HPV vaccine have been given without any problem.
- You may get a sore arm.
- Occasionally, a few people faint, so sit for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine.

Make sure you get all your HPV shots. Complete your series!

When Should I Get HPV Vaccine?

Make sure your healthcare provider reviews with you when you 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

NOTE: If you have problems with your immune system, you will need to receive 3 doses of HPV vaccine.

For more information on vaccines for teens and young adults, visit www.vaccineinformation.org/teens or www.vaccineinformation.org/adults

Adapted with permission from the Academic Pediatric Association