

Why does my child need the HPV vaccine?

HPV is a common virus that infects teens and adults. Most people get infected at some point during their life. Infection with some types of HPV can lead to several types of cancer, including cancer of the mouth and throat. In Arkansas, the rate of mouth and throat cancers is very high, and it is going up. The HPV vaccine can protect from the specific types of HPV that cause most mouth and throat cancers.

Questions
dentists and
hygienists may
get about HPV
vaccination.

About human papillomavirus

HPV stands for human papillomavirus. HPV is spread by intimate skin-to-skin contact with someone who has the virus, even if they don't have signs or symptoms. It only takes one encounter or one partner to transmit the infection.

Why is the HPV vaccine given at ages 9 to 12?

HPV vaccine must be given before a person is exposed. Every visit after age 9 is an opportunity to provide the vaccine to preteens and teens. Almost no 9- to 12-year-olds have HPV infection. Current evidence shows that protection from HPV vaccination does not wear off!

Common side effects of the HPV vaccine

The HPV vaccine is very safe. The HPV vaccine, like any vaccine, can cause injection site pain, swelling, or redness. Some adolescents may have a headache or even faint after they get shots.



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By ensuring that boys and girls starting at age nine (9) get the HPV vaccine, we can give them a chance at a future free from HPV-associated cancers.

Questions dentists and hygienists may get about HPV vaccination.

How do you know the vaccine works?

Studies continue to prove HPV vaccination works extremely well, decreasing the number of infections and HPV precancers in young people since it has been available.

I'm worried my child will think that getting the HPV vaccine makes it OK to have sex.

Studies tell us that getting the HPV vaccine doesn't make kids more likely to start having sex. It's important for children to get the vaccine long before they ever even think about having sex. The HPV vaccine is cancer prevention.

Why do boys need the HPV vaccine?

HPV vaccination can help prevent future infections that can lead to cancers of the penis, anus, and back of the throat in men. By vaccinating your son as recommended, he will be better protected against the HPV types that can cause these diseases.



References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/hpv/public/>

https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP_OPCHPV_WhatDentalProsNeedToKnow_final.pdf