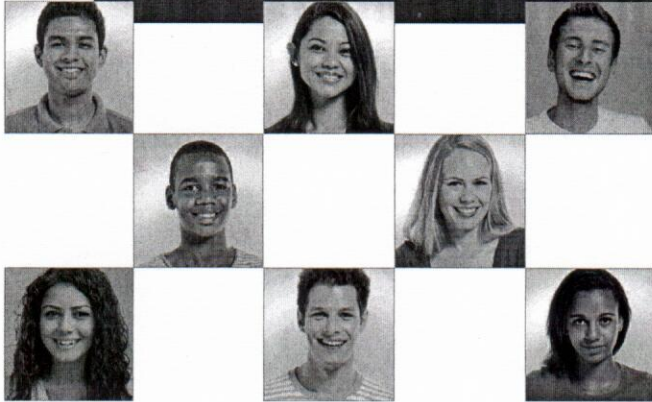


HPV* Vaccine

A Guide for Adults
Ages 18–26 Years

* human papillomavirus



HPV is a very common virus that can lead to:

- ▶ Cancers of the back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils
- ▶ 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 protection against many HPV types.

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	At least 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



FOR PROFESSIONALS www.immunize.org / FOR THE PUBLIC www.vaccineinformation.org

www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4251.pdf
Item #4251 (4/8/2025)



Scan for PDF