



Redlands Unified School District

Health Services Department

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Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Information

*In accordance with CA Education Code 48980.4 notification is provided regarding the state's public policy described in subdivision (a) of Section 120336 of the Health and Safety Code, regarding **recommendation** for full human papillomavirus (HPV) immunization before admission or advancement to the eighth grade level.*

What is Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?

HPV is a very common virus that can cause serious cancers later in life. It's estimated that HPV causes about 37,000 cases of cancer in men and women every year in the U.S.

How can I protect my child from HPV?

HPV vaccination can prevent over 90% of cancers caused by HPV. HPV vaccines are very safe, and scientific research shows that the benefits of HPV vaccination far outweigh the potential risks. Similar to other vaccines, common side effects are mild, like pain redness or swelling where the shot was given, and get better within a day or two.

Because it is safe and effective, vaccination against HPV is recommended by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. It's also recommended by the American Cancer Society and California's Cancer Prevention Act.

Who should get the vaccine and when should they get it?

HPV vaccine is more effective when given at younger ages. All kids between the ages of 9 to 12 years are recommended to receive two doses of HPV vaccine, with the second dose given before the start of 8th grade. The HPV vaccine is often given at the same time as whooping cough and bacterial meningitis vaccines for adolescents.

Where can I get the HPV vaccine for my child?

[Insert information about your school-located vaccination event, if hosting one.] Ask your health care provider, pharmacist, or local health department to learn more about HPV vaccine and where you can get it. The vaccine is covered by most health insurance plans. If you don't have health insurance, your child can still get vaccinated. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program offers free vaccines to children up to age 18 years without insurance or whose insurance does not cover the cost of vaccines.

Ask your healthcare provider or [local health department](#) about VFC, or learn more [here](#). Find doctors participating in VFC [in your area](#).

For more information on HPV, the vaccine, and cancer prevention, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).