

HPV Vaccines Are Safe For Your Child

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HPV vaccines are very safe. CDC has carefully studied the risks of HPV vaccination. The benefits of HPV vaccination, such as prevention of cancer, far outweigh the risks of possible side effects.

HPV vaccines are safe and recommended for girls and boys at age 11 or 12

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus that affects men and women. HPV can cause cancers of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in women; cancer of the penis in men, and cancers of the anus and throat in men and women.

HPV vaccination is recommended for girls and boys at ages 11 or 12. There are three HPV vaccines approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to protect against HPV and the cancers it can cause.

Like all vaccines used in the United States, HPV vaccines are required to go through years of safety testing before they are approved by the FDA. CDC and FDA closely monitor vaccines to make sure they are safe even after they are available to the public.

HPV vaccines have good safety records. Studies have shown that each HPV vaccine is very safe, and careful safety monitoring has not shown any problems.

The safety of HPV vaccines was tested in thousands of volunteers before the vaccines were approved

	How many people was it tested in?	When was it approved?	Who is it recommended for?
Gardasil	More than 29,000 volunteers	2006	Girls and boys at age 11 or 12
Cervarix	More than 30,000 volunteers	2009	Girls age 11 or 12
Gardasil 9	More than 15,000 volunteers	2014	Girls and boys at age 11 or 12 years

Like any vaccine or medicine, HPV vaccines can cause side effects

Some people have mild side effects after getting the HPV vaccine. Common side effects include:

- Pain, swelling, or redness in the arm where the shot was given
- Fever
- Headache or feeling tired
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain
- Muscle or joint pain



Talk with your doctor about any health concerns before vaccination

If your child is scheduled for HPV vaccination, tell your doctor about any severe allergies. Some children should not get some HPV vaccines, including:

- Children who have ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to any ingredient of an HPV vaccine, or to a previous dose of HPV vaccine
- Children who have an allergy to yeast (Gardasil and Gardasil 9)
- Children who have an allergy to latex (Cervarix)

HPV vaccines are safe for children who are mildly ill – for example, with a low-grade fever of less than 101 degrees, a cold, runny nose, or cough. Children with a moderate or severe illness should wait until they are better.



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HPV vaccines don't cause HPV infection or cancer

HPV vaccines cannot cause HPV infection or cancer. In fact, HPV vaccines are very effective at protecting against HPV types that cause cancers.

HPV vaccines don't cause any fertility problems

Some parents have been concerned that HPV vaccines might make their child unable to have children in the future. However, HPV vaccines do not cause any fertility problems.

In fact, *not* getting HPV vaccination leaves boys and girls at risk for cancers caused by HPV. A girl who develops cervical cancer later in life due to HPV infection may require serious treatments that could leave her unable to have children. HPV vaccination can prevent these complications.

Fainting can happen after any medical procedure, including HPV vaccination

Some people, especially teens, faint after getting vaccinated. To prevent fainting and related injuries, people receiving HPV vaccines should sit or lie down during vaccination, then remain seated for 15 minutes after the shot. People should tell the doctor or nurse if they're feeling dizzy, faint, or light-headed.

Seek medical care if your child has a reaction

If your child is having a severe allergic reaction or other health emergency, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest hospital.

Look for any signs or symptoms that concern you, like signs of a severe allergic reaction, very high fever, or behavior changes. These would start a few minutes to a few hours after the shot is given.

Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include:

- Hives
- Swelling of the face and throat
- Difficulty breathing
- A fast heartbeat
- Dizziness
- Weakness

After seeing a doctor, you should report the reaction to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). CDC and FDA use this system to track possible vaccine side effects. Your doctor can file this report, or you can do it yourself through the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov, or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Family Physicians, and American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommend children receive all vaccines according to the recommended schedule.