

# HPV (HUMAN PAPILOMAVIRUS) VACCINE

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### 1 What is HPV?

**Genital human papillomavirus (HPV)** is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States.

There are about 40 types of HPV. About 20 million people in the U.S. are infected, and about 6.2 million more get infected each year. HPV is spread through sexual contact.

Most HPV infections don't cause any symptoms, and go away on their own. But HPV is important mainly because it can cause **cervical cancer** in women. Every year in the U.S. about 10,000 women get cervical cancer and 3,700 die from it. It is the 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths among women around the world.

HPV is also associated with several less common types of cancer in both men and women. It can also cause genital warts and warts in the upper respiratory tract.

More than 50% of sexually active men and women are infected with HPV at sometime in their lives.

There is no treatment for HPV infection, but the conditions it causes can be treated.

### 2 HPV Vaccine - Why get vaccinated?

**HPV vaccine** is an inactivated (not live) vaccine which protects against 4 major types of HPV.

These include 2 types that cause about 70% of cervical cancer and 2 types that cause about 90% of genital warts. ***HPV vaccine can prevent most genital warts and most cases of cervical cancer.***

Protection from HPV vaccine is expected to be long-lasting. But vaccinated women still need cervical cancer screening because the vaccine does not protect against all HPV types that cause cervical cancer.

### 3 Who should get HPV vaccine and when?

#### Routine Vaccination

- HPV vaccine is routinely recommended for girls **11-12 years of age**. Doctors may give it to girls as young as 9 years.

#### Why is HPV vaccine given to girls at this age?

It is important for girls to get HPV vaccine **before** their first sexual contact – because they have not been exposed to HPV. For these girls, the vaccine can prevent almost 100% of disease caused by the 4 types of HPV targeted by the vaccine.

However, if a girl or woman is already infected with a type of HPV, the vaccine will not prevent disease from that type.

#### Catch-Up Vaccination

- The vaccine is also recommended for girls and women **13-26 years of age** who did not receive it when they were younger.

#### HPV vaccine is given as a 3-dose series:

1st Dose:	Now
2nd Dose:	2 months after Dose 1
3rd Dose:	6 months after Dose 1

Additional (booster) doses are not recommended.

HPV vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

### 4 Some girls or women should not get HPV vaccine or should wait

- Anyone who has ever had a life-threatening **allergic reaction to yeast**, to **any other component of HPV vaccine**, or to a **previous dose of HPV vaccine** should not get the vaccine. Tell your doctor if the person getting the vaccine has any severe allergies.