

## **HPV Vaccine**

### **Parental Questions**

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#### **Why does my child need the HPV Vaccine?**

HPV vaccine is important because it prevents infections that can cause cancers in both males and females. These cancers include the throat, cervix, anus, penis, and vagina.

#### **Is my child really at risk for HPV?**

Starting the vaccine series today will help protect your child from cancers and diseases caused by HPV when they become an adult. According to the Center for Disease Control (2017), each year 31,500 HPV-attributable cancers are diagnosed in the US.

#### **Why do children need the HPV vaccine at such a young age?**

Like all vaccines, the earlier you give the HPV vaccine the better the immune response. When given before the age of 15 years, two vaccines are recommended. If given after the age of 15 years, three vaccines are recommended. The vaccine is recommended for children between the ages of 11 yrs and 26 yrs of age.

#### **Do you think the vaccine is safe?**

Yes, HPV vaccination is very safe. Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects, including pain, swelling, or redness where the shot was given. This is a normal response for the HPV vaccine and it should go away within 1-2 days.

#### **Why do boys need the HPV vaccine?**

HPV vaccination can help prevent future infection that can lead to cancer of the penis, anus, and back of the throat in men.

### **How do I know the HPV vaccine actually works?**

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

### **I am worried my child may think that getting the vaccine may indicate it is OK to have sex?**

Studies tell us that getting the vaccine doesn't make kids more likely to start having sex. The vaccine is intended to decrease the numbers of cancers related to HPV and is described as a anti-HPV cancer vaccine by the CDC and other reputable national organizations.

### **Is the vaccine required?**

The vaccine is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the CDC and other major medical organizations. The vaccine is not required for school entry. School entry requirements are developed for public health safety, but don't always reflect the most current medical recommendations for your child's health.