

## Learn more about the HPV vaccine

### Contact:

- Your child's health-care provider.
- The State of Hawai‘i, Department of Health Immunization Branch.  
<http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/home/imm/>  
Phone: **808-586-8300, Neighbor Islands call toll-free at 1-800-933-4832**
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
[www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)  
Phone: **1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)**

## The HPV vaccine will protect your daughters and sons from some cancers



## What is HPV?

### Human Papilloma Virus

- HPV is a virus. Some types of this virus cause cancer and infections, like genital warts in males and females.
- A person can have the virus and show no symptoms. If a person has the virus, he/she can pass it on to someone else.
- There is no cure for the virus. But there are two vaccines that can prevent most of the cancers and infections that it causes.

## What cancers and infections can this virus cause?

### This virus can cause:

- Cervical cancer
- Cancer of the anus and penis
- Cancers of the mouth and throat
- Other genital cancers
- Genital warts

**The HPV vaccine can prevent most of the cancers and infections that this virus causes.**

“We vaccinated our kids from birth to protect them from polio, measles, whooping cough and other illnesses. Why not also protect them from cancers they might get from this virus in the future? It was an easy decision.”

—May with Kevin and *keiki* (Kalen, Ashley, Taylor)  
Wahiawā, O‘ahu



The vaccine is most effective when given at ages 11 to 12 years.

# Common questions parents have about the HPV vaccine

Protect your child by getting them the recommended shots.

- Doctors and experts recommend the vaccine for girls and boys, ages **11 & 12 years** before sexual activity begins and HPV infection can occur.

If your daughter or son has not yet been vaccinated, it is not too late!

- Also recommended for:
  - Girls ages 13-26
  - Boys ages 13-21
- Some doctors may recommend the vaccine as early as age 9 years old.

## Ask your child's doctor about the HPV vaccine.

- There are two HPV vaccines now available, Gardasil© and Cervarix©.
- Both vaccines are given as a series of 3 shots in a 6 month period.
- This vaccine is on the recommended list for Hawai‘i schools.

## Is the HPV vaccine safe?

**Yes.** It is monitored by the Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). More than 57 million doses have been given out, and there have been no serious safety concerns.

**Yes.** Doctors have given the HPV vaccine safely with other recommended vaccines for Tdap, meningococcal, and influenza.

## Are there side effects?

- Side effects are rare and are usually mild. Common side effects include soreness where the shot was given (usually in the arm), fever, dizziness, and nausea.
- Be sure to read the Vaccine Information Statement given by your child’s doctor and discuss all risks with the doctor.

## What if the doctor did not bring it up?

- If your child’s doctor has not mentioned it, you should ask about the HPV vaccine.
- Let your child’s doctor know that you heard about the HPV vaccine. Ask if it is something your child should get.

## Since HPV can be passed on during sexual activity, why does my child need the vaccine when he/she is not having sex yet?

Getting the vaccine early, at ages 11 or 12, before sexual activity begins, protects your child in the future. The vaccine can prevent 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts.

## Why does my son need the HPV vaccine?

Boys are recommended to receive the Gardasil© vaccine for protection from genital warts and other cancers caused by HPV(anal, penile, and oral cancers).

## How much does it cost?

- Most health insurance plans in Hawai‘i cover the cost of the vaccine series of 3 shots.
- Programs like Vaccines for Children (VFC) can provide the vaccine free or at low cost.

“Surviving cervical cancer was a tough journey. I would not want another girl to go through that. Parents, be sure to vaccinate your daughters and sons. It could save their lives!”

—Beth  
Cervical cancer survivor, Kailua, Hawai‘i



## Recommended immunizations for your child & when to get them.

CHILD'S AGE	SHOT
11-12 Years	HPV (Human Papillomavirus), Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria & pertussis), MCV (Meningococcal disease)
4-6 Years (before starting school)	MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) Tdap, IPV (Polio), Varicella (Chicken Pox)
15-18 Months	Tdap
12-23 Months	Hep A (Hepatitis A), with 2 doses needed 6-18 months apart
12-15 Months	Hib (Haemophilus influenza type b), MMR, PCV (Pneumococcal disease), Varicella
6 Mos.- 18 Yrs (yearly)	Influenza
6-18 Months	Hep B (Hepatitis B), IPV
6 Months	Tdap, Hib (if needed), PCV, RV (if needed)
4 Months	Tdap, IPDV, Hib, PCV, RV
2 Months	Tdap, IPV, Hib PCV, RV
1-2 Months	Hep B
Birth	Hep B

If your child has missed shots or you have questions or concerns, follow up with your child's doctor.

“The HPV vaccine is better than a cure for cancer. It prevents cancer! As an OB-GYN doctor and a parent myself, I strongly recommend the vaccine.”

—Dr. Reni Soon, MD, MPH,  
Obstetrician-Gynecologist and parent  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

