

# Tips for Immunizing Pre-Teens & Adolescents



## 1 Recommend vaccines!

Your professional recommendation matters to patients and has a positive impact on their decision to receive vaccines. Use reminders, such as chart notes and flags, to prompt you to recommend vaccines to your patients and their parents.

## 2 Reduce financial barriers

Participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program which offers low or no cost vaccines to eligible children from birth through 18 years of age.

Find out more at <https://njiis.nj.gov/njiis/html/vfc.html>

## 3 Use standing orders

Templates for standing orders are available from the Immunization Action Coalition <http://www.immunize.org/standing-orders/>

## 4 Provide multiple vaccines in a single visit

Simultaneous administration of needed vaccines is recommended; use separate sites.

## 5 Do not miss an opportunity to administer vaccines

Assess immunization status and vaccinate at every visit – well, sick, sports, and camp physicals.

## 6 Use reminder & recall tools to get patients into the office

The New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS) has reminder and recall functions (<https://njiis.nj.gov>)

## 7 Assess your vaccination efforts & provide feedback to those who can affect change

Without periodic assessment, you can't know how you are doing.

# Addressing Parents' Top Questions about HPV VACCINE

Recommend the HPV vaccine series the same way you recommend the other adolescent vaccines. Try saying, "Your child is due for vaccinations today to help protect against meningitis, HPV cancers, and pertussis. We'll give those shots at the end of the visit."

Parents may be interested in vaccinating, yet still have questions. Some parents might just need additional information from you, the clinician they trust. Taking the time to answer their questions and address their concerns can help parents accept HPV vaccination when their child is at the recommended ages of 11 or 12 years.

## WHEN PARENTS SAY:

Why does my child need the HPV vaccine?

What diseases are caused by HPV?

Is my child really at risk for HPV?

Why do they need HPV vaccine at such a young age?

I have some concerns about the safety of the vaccine—I keep reading things online that says HPV vaccination isn't safe. Do you really know if it's safe?

Could HPV vaccine cause my child to have problems with infertility?

I'm just worried that my child will perceive this as a green light to have sex.

How do you know if the vaccine works?

Why do boys need HPV vaccine?

Would you get HPV vaccine for your kids?

## TRY SAYING:

HPV vaccine is important because it prevents cancer. That is why I recommend that your daughter/son be vaccinated today.

Certain HPV types can cause cancer of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in females, cancer of the penis in men, and in both females and males, cancers of the anus and the throat. We can help prevent infection with the HPV types that cause these cancers by starting the HPV vaccine series for your child today.

HPV is a very common and widespread virus that infects both females and males. We can help protect your child from the cancers and diseases caused by the virus by starting HPV vaccination today.

HPV vaccination works best at the recommended ages of 11 or 12 years.

I know there are stories in the media and online about vaccines, and I can see how that could concern you. However, I want you to know that HPV vaccine has been carefully studied for many years by medical and scientific experts. I believe HPV vaccine is very safe. Vaccines, like any medication, can cause side effects. With HPV vaccination this could include pain, swelling, and/or redness where the shot is given, or possibly headache. Sometimes kids faint when they get shots and they could be injured if they fall from fainting. We'll protect your child by having them stay seated after the shot.

There is no data available to suggest that getting HPV vaccine will have an effect on future fertility. However, women who develop cervical cancer could require treatment that would limit their ability to have children.

Numerous research studies have shown that getting the HPV vaccine does not make kids more likely to be sexually active or start having sex at a younger age.

Ongoing studies are showing that HPV vaccination works very well and has decreased HPV infection, genital warts, and cervical precancers in young people in the years since it has been available.

HPV infection can cause cancers of the penis, anus, and throat in men and it can also cause genital warts. HPV vaccine can help prevent the infection that lead to these diseases.

Yes, I have given HPV vaccine to my child (or grandchild, etc) because I believe in the importance of this cancer-preventing vaccine. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, cancer centers, and the CDC, also agree that getting the HPV vaccine is very important for your child.



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**HPV VACCINE**  
**IS CANCER PREVENTION**

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