

# Did you know that HPV can cause cancer?

Protect your child from the risk...  
get your child the HPV vaccine!



## What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (also called HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the U.S. There are over 40 different types of the HPV virus. HPV can cause infections, like genital warts, but can also lead to many different cancers in both men and women.

## How do you get HPV?

You can get HPV during sex acts. HPV is so common that most people who have sex will get HPV and may not even know it.

## Is HPV serious?

Yes, HPV is very serious. HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer in women. In the U.S., about 12,000 women will get cervical cancer each year, and as many as 4,000 will die from it. HPV can also lead to other cancers, like cancer of the mouth, throat, sex organs (vagina and penis), and rectum.

## How can I protect my child from HPV?

Vaccination (shots) is the best way to protect against HPV.

## Why should I vaccinate my young child against HPV?

The vaccine works best if the shots are given before a person ever starts to have sex (that is, when they are young). However, even if a person has already started having sex, the vaccine can still give protection against HPV.

## Is the HPV vaccine safe?

Yes – the FDA has approved the vaccine as safe. As of July 2012, over 46 million doses of the vaccine had already been given in the United States. The FDA continues to watch the vaccine for safety.

## At what age should my child get the HPV vaccine?

Both girls and boys should get the shots starting when they are 11 or 12 years old. Your child will get 3 doses of the HPV vaccine over a 6-month period. Older teens and young adults (up to age 26) should also get the HPV vaccine, too.

## How can I get my child the HPV vaccine?

Ask your child's doctor for the HPV vaccine or go to your local health department.



[www.vaccinateindiana.org](http://www.vaccinateindiana.org)

These materials were created by the Indiana Immunization Coalition, Inc. and were funded by the Indiana State Department of Health through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Award No: 5H23(P52252-11)).

INDIANA  
IMMUNIZATION COALITION