

Media Messages

HPV Vaccination

References: CDC → <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hpv/vac-faqs.htm>

1. **Recommendation:**

CDC recommends the HPV vaccine for all 11 and 12 year old girls. Vaccination also is recommended for females aged 13 through 26 years who have not been previously vaccinated or who have not completed the full series of shots.

2. **Effectiveness Message:**

This vaccine is highly effective in preventing four types of HPV in young women who have not been previously exposed to HPV. This vaccine targets HPV types that cause up to 70% of all cervical cancers and about 90% of genital warts. The vaccine will not treat existing HPV infections or their complications.

3. **Vaccine Delivery Message:**

The vaccine is given in a series of three injections over a six-month period. The second and third doses should be given at two and six months (respectively) after the first dose. HPV vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines. The length of vaccine protection (immunity) is still being determined. Thus far, studies have found that vaccinated persons are protected for five years. More research is being done to find out how long protection will last, and if a booster dose of vaccine will be needed.

4. **Wellness Care Message:**

The HPV Vaccine along with a regular pap test, STD education and STD testing are important components of comprehensive wellness care for adolescents and young adult women. There are three reasons why women and girls who get the HPV vaccine still need regular cervical cancer screening (i.e. Pap Test). First, the vaccine will *NOT* provide protection against all types of HPV that cause cervical cancer, so they will still be at risk for some cancers. Second, some may not get all required doses of the vaccine (or they may not get them at the right times), so they may not get the vaccine's full benefits. Third, they may also not get the vaccine's full benefits if they have already have HPV.

5. **Safety Message:**

The vaccine is considered very safe and effective. This vaccine has been tested in thousands of females (9 to 26 years of age) around the world. The most common reaction is soreness and swelling at the injection site. The CDC, working with the FDA, will continue to monitor the safety of the vaccine and provide updates. Studies have shown that the few women who have inadvertently become pregnant during the HPV vaccination series have *NOT* been shown to have an increased risk of fetal abnormalities. Studies in males and older women are currently being performed and will be reported in 2-4 years.