

## Myth vs. Fact

**Myth: It's not safe. Too new of a vaccine.**

**Fact:** The HPV vaccine has been shown to be very safe. The vaccine went through years of thorough safety testing before it was approved by the **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** in 2006 to prevent cervical cancer in women and in 2009 to prevent HPV-related cancers in males. Since then, more than 100 million doses of the HPV vaccine have been given in the United States and has proven to have no serious side effects. The vaccine is always checked for safety.

**Myth: You are not at risk if you don't have many sexual partners.**

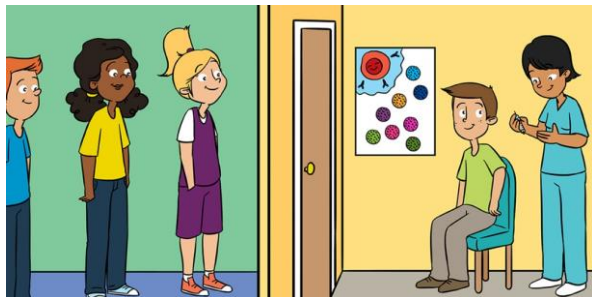
**Fact:** Most every person will come in contact with HPV in their lifetime and both males and females are at risk.

**Myth: The vaccine is not needed if no one in my family has had cervical cancer.**

**Fact:** HPV vaccine prevent 10's of thousands of cancers each year. Cancers caused by HPV are not passed through family genes.

**Myth: The vaccine can cause serious side effects.**

**Fact:** Many studies have been done and the HPV vaccine was found to be safe. The most common side effects include soreness, swelling, or redness at the injection site.



## More Information:

To make your appointment, please call the East Liverpool City Health District Public Nurse at **(330) 385.5123**.

The vaccine is available through Vaccine for Children Program for free. We also carry the vaccine under private insurance. If the vaccine is not covered under your insurance, then we can provide it at no charge.

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)

[www.fda.gov/vaccines](http://www.fda.gov/vaccines)



# PARENT'S GUIDE TO PRETEEN AND TEEN HPV VACCINATION

(Human Papilloma Virus)



## PURPOSE:

To Prevent Disease/Cancer  
To give information on Gardasil vaccine  
To protect against Human Papilloma Virus  
To educate against health risks behaviors

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## What is HPV?

HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) is a common family of viruses that can easily spread by skin-to-skin contact during sexual activity and can cause infection of the skin or mucous membranes. It is the most sexually spread infection in the United States and most men and women will contact at least one type of the HPV virus. It is the cause of almost all cervical cancers in women and is linked to the rise of oral cancers such as tongue and throat in youth. A person can be infected with HPV for years without symptoms before a cancer occurs.

## How Serious is HPV?

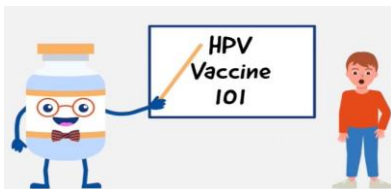
It is very serious. The **CDC** reports every year just about 14 million Americans become infected and 13,000 new cervical cancer cases are found each year. More than 4,000 women die from cervical cancers every year. Over 11,000 men are also found to have HPV-associated cancers every year.

## Does Everyone Who Contracts HPV Get Cancer?

No, some people clear the virus, others do not, maybe causing abnormal cells which can cause cancer.

## How Does the HPV Vaccine Help?

Gardasil-9 offers prevention of certain cancers caused by the virus. It lowers the risk of cervical cancer and protects against mouth, throat, head and neck cancers that are caused by HPV and protects against 90% of HPV-related genital warts.



## How Effective is the Vaccine?

It is very helpful. Studies looking at HPV infections show a big decrease in vaccine-type HPV after the start of HPV vaccines.

## How Does the HPV Vaccine Help You Even After You're Already Sexually Active?

Since most people contract HPV soon after being sexually active, the vaccine will still protect you against other strains of HPV that you may not have.

## Is the Vaccine Just for Girls?

No, the vaccine provides protection for both men and women. The **CDC** reports that more than 4 out of every 10 cases of cancer caused by HPV are in men.

## How Many Cancers Does the Vaccine Protect Against?

Six (6) cancers which include head and neck cancers. There are now more cases of head and neck cancers than cervical cancers in America; HPV causes 70% of them, per the **CDC**.

## What Age is the Vaccine Recommended for?

For better immunity against infection, the vaccine is advised for 11- or 12-year-olds. It can now be given up to age 45. The best age for the vaccine to be effective, is before a person's first sexual contact.

## How Long Does the Vaccine Protect my Child?

The vaccine will protect the child throughout their life.

## What Other Steps Can Be Taken to Protect Against the Spread of HPV?

Avoid unprotected sex. Condoms will help prevent the spread of the HPV virus.

## What Other Steps Can Be Taken to Protect Against Getting Cervical Cancer?

Medical screening exams are important for all females. It is advised that females should have an annual pap smear when sexual activity begins.

Talk with your healthcare team today about protecting your son or daughter from HPV infection.

