

# HPV Awareness & Vaccination Facts

Protect Yourself. Protect Your Loved Ones.



## What Is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common viruses affecting both men and women. It can lead to serious health issues, including cervical, throat, and other types of cancers. The good news? A safe and effective vaccine is available to protect you and your loved ones from HPV-related cancers.

## Why Is the HPV Vaccine Important?

The HPV vaccine helps prevent infections that can lead to cancer. It is a simple, effective, and life-saving immunization that reduces the risk of HPV-related diseases.

## Who Should Get the HPV Vaccine?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend the following:

Children & Preteens (Ages 9–12):	Teens & Young Adults (Ages 15–26):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ideal age to start vaccination is 11–12 years old.</li><li>• In some cases, children as young as 9 years old may receive the vaccine.</li><li>• Dosage: Two doses, given six to 12 months apart.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If doses are given less than five months apart, a third dose is needed.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If the vaccine series starts after the 15th birthday, three doses should be administered over a six-month period.</li><li>• It is highly recommended for both males and females in this age group.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adults (Ages 27–45):</li><li>• Vaccination is not routinely recommended but may be given after discussing risks with a healthcare provider.</li></ul></li></ul>

## Where to Get Vaccinated?

HPV vaccines are widely available at doctor’s offices, local health clinics, pharmacies, and health departments. Many insurance plans cover the cost of the vaccine, and assistance programs are available for those without coverage.

## Myth vs Fact

- x Myth:** The HPV vaccine is only for girls.
- ✓ Fact:** The vaccine protects both boys and girls from HPV-related cancers and diseases.
- x Myth:** The HPV vaccine encourages early sexual activity.
- ✓ Fact:** The vaccine is a cancer prevention tool, not an encouragement for sexual behavior.
- x Myth:** The HPV vaccine is not safe.
- ✓ Fact:** The HPV vaccine has been extensively tested and proven safe with millions of doses given worldwide.

**References:** Arkansas Department of Health: [Healthy.Arkansas.gov](https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov) / CDC HPV Vaccine Information: [CDC.gov/hpv](https://www.cdc.gov/hpv)

**Take Action Today!**

- Schedule an appointment for your child’s HPV vaccine.
- Talk to your doctor about your vaccination status.
- Spread awareness — encourage family and friends to get vaccinated.