

HPV9 Vaccine

One in four people in the United States is currently infected with Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and nearly everyone who is sexually active will be exposed at some point in their lives.¹ Protect yourself by getting vaccinated.

What is Human Papilloma Virus?

HPV is a virus that infects your skin and mucous membrane cells. There are over 100 different strains of the virus identified. Some strains cause warts (commonly genital warts and anal warts, but they can also infect the mouth and throat). Other strains can cause chronic infections that can, over time, lead to cancer in the infected tissue. Cancers of the vulva, vagina, cervix, penis, and throat have all been linked to chronic HPV infection.

What is the HPV9 Vaccine?

The HPV9 vaccine is made up of synthetic proteins that mimic nine strains of HPV, stimulating your immune system to develop immunity against those strains. It protects you from seven strains that are associated with cancers and two strains that cause genital and anal warts. You can learn more about the vaccine at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hpv-gardasil-9.html.

How do I get the vaccine?

The HPV9 vaccine is a series of three shots, given over six months. You can call the Nurse Specialty Clinic at 541-346-2739 to make an appointment to start your series. If you have already started the series, but are overdue for your next shot the University Health Center can help. We will determine which immunization in the series is needed and get you caught up in order to complete the entire series.

Is the vaccine safe?

Since the virus is made up of synthetic proteins, it does not contain live virus and you have no risk of becoming infected with HPV from the vaccine. Most people have mild soreness at the injection site for a day or two (9 out of 10 people), and some develop a low grade fever (1 out of 10 people). The vaccine has been well studied and is considered very safe. You can learn more about the risks at www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/index.html.

1. Data from <http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/index.html>

Who should get the vaccine?

The CDC recommends the vaccine for everyone between the ages of 9 and 21 and most people up to age 26. People who have had adverse or allergic reactions to the vaccine in the past should talk to a clinician prior to getting the vaccine. Pregnant people should not get the vaccine, as its safety has not been studied in pregnancy.

How effective is the vaccine?

The HPV9 vaccine is very effective. Studies show that after the three shots nearly 100 percent of people achieve immunity against the nine strains of HPV the vaccine is designed to protect against. Since the vaccine was implemented in 2006, the rates of genital warts and pre-cancerous genital and anal changes have dramatically reduced in the populations who get the vaccine.² *Because the vaccine does not protect against every strain of the virus, regular exams and Pap smears are still recommended.*

I got all my childhood shots, so I must have gotten the HPV vaccine already, right?

Check your records. Even though this vaccine is recommended beginning at age 9, it is not required for entry into school. According to the CDC, only 40 percent of children and teens in the United States have been vaccinated against HPV.

How much does the HPV9 vaccine cost?

The vaccine costs about \$160 per dose, or \$480 for the full series. However, most insurance plans cover the full cost. Check with your insurance to find out if there will be any out-of-pocket cost for you. Our insurance specialists at the University Health Center can help you determine your costs, if any.

What's the next step?

Call University Health Center's Nurse Specialty Clinic at 541-346-2739 for more information and to schedule your vaccine appointment.

2. Data from 2016 study published in Pediatrics, <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/02/19/peds>. 2015-1968