

WHAT IS THE HPV VACCINE?

HPV vaccination provides safe, effective, and lasting protection against HPV infections. It is a series of shots that protect against the types of HPV that most commonly cause cancer and genital warts.

The vaccine is most effective when given to individuals before they become sexually active, but it can still benefit those who have already become sexually active.

WHO SHOULD GET THE HPV VACCINE?

The CDC recommends that all children ages 11-12 should receive the HPV vaccine alongside their other routine vaccines.

“Catch-up” HPV vaccinations for people who were not previously vaccinated as adolescents are recommended for everyone through age 26.

For adults ages 27-45 who have not previously had an HPV vaccine, a discussion between the patient and their clinician is recommended to determine if the vaccine is right for them. If you are not sure if you previously had the HPV vaccine, it may be safe to receive it again - talk with your provider.



Women Veterans Call Center

The Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) is your guide to VA. All calls are answered by women, many of whom are Veterans themselves, who will help you navigate VA, answer your questions about VA services and benefits available to you, and connect you with the Women Veterans Program Manager at your local VA medical center. This service is free, and you can call as many times as you need.

Call or text us at 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636). WVCC representatives are available Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET. You can also chat with us online and learn more by visiting <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov>



Am I Eligible for VA Health Care?

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To apply for VA benefits you may have earned—such as preventative care, inpatient and urgent care services—call 1-877-222-8387

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET.
Veterans Benefits Administration 1-800-827-1000
www.vba.va.gov

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

HPV VACCINE

(Human Papillomavirus)



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

HPV VACCINE



WHAT IS HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus that can be spread through skin-to-skin contact during sexual activity. There are many types of HPV, and some can cause health problems like genital warts and cancers of the cervix, vagina, vulva, penis, anus, and throat. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly all sexually active people will have HPV at some point in their life.

Most people with HPV do not develop any symptoms. While the virus usually resolves on its own, it can cause cancers or genital warts later in life.

HPV IS THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF CERVICAL CANCER

Each year, over 10,000 people get cervical cancer from HPV, almost 13,000 get mouth or throat cancers, and 6,000 get cancers of the anus.

Cervical cancer screening is recommended in all people with a cervix ages 21-65. This is done through a Pap smear or a test looking for high risk types of HPV. Talk to your provider about whether cervical cancer screening is right for you.

DOES THE HPV VACCINE WORK?

The HPV vaccine works very well to protect against HPV infections and related diseases. For example, the HPV vaccine reduces the risk of cervical cancer by 90%.

Since the vaccine was first recommended in 2006, the number of HPV infections and related diseases has decreased by more than 80% among teen girls and young adult women.

IS THE HPV VACCINE SAFE?

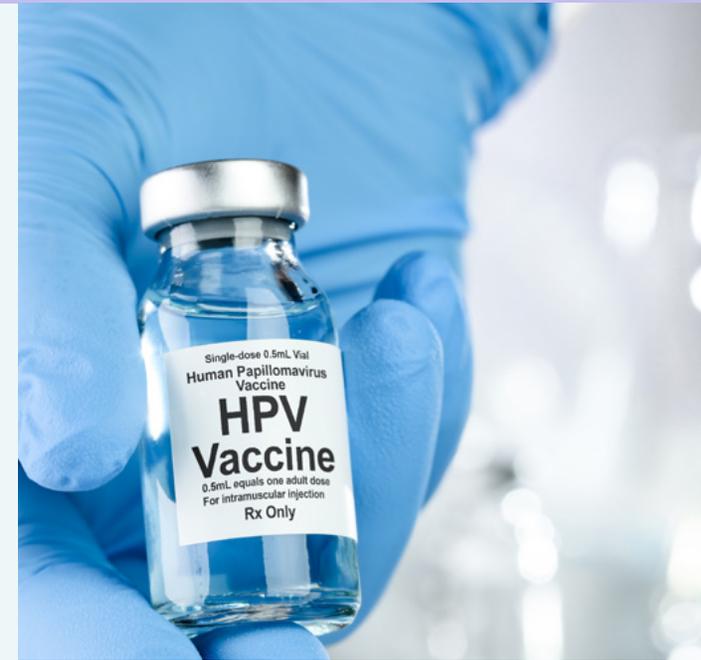
Yes! The HPV vaccine has been extensively tested and is safe. Like any vaccine, it may cause mild side effects, such as soreness at the injection site or a mild fever. Serious side effects are rare.



SHOULD I GET THE HPV VACCINE IF I'VE ALREADY HAD HPV?

Yes, you should still consider getting the HPV vaccine even if you've already had HPV. The vaccine can protect you from other types of HPV that you haven't been exposed to yet and may help prevent future health problems.

It's best to talk to your care team about your specific situation and whether getting the HPV vaccine is recommended for you.



HOW CAN I GET THE HPV VACCINE?

Talk to your primary care team to schedule a vaccine.

Protect yourself and your loved ones from HPV-related diseases by getting vaccinated today!

For more information, please see:

HPV factsheet from the CDC



VA resources about HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening:

