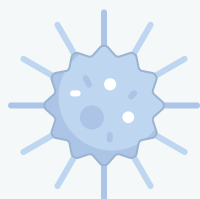


# PROMOTING HPV VACCINATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that girls and boys get 2 doses of the HPV vaccine at ages 9 to 12 years. Children and young adults up to age 26 years who have not received the HPV vaccine should get vaccinated. If the first dose is given at or after age 15, 3 doses are recommended. Vaccination of young adults will not prevent as many cancers as vaccination of children and teens. ACS does not recommend HPV vaccination for persons older than 26 years. [To learn more, access the ACS guidelines for HPV vaccination.](#)

## WHY IS HPV VACCINATION IMPORTANT?



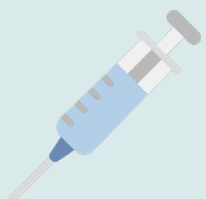
- HPV vaccination can prevent more than 90% of HPV-related cancers when given at the recommended ages.
- The HPV vaccine prevents HPV infections that can cause 6 types of cancer: cervical, vaginal, vulvar, anal, penile, and oropharyngeal.
- The vaccine also prevents HPV infections that cause most cases of genital warts and, for women, most cervical precancers and abnormal results on cervical cancer screening tests.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 ON HPV VACCINATION?



- [>80% drop](#) in weekly HPV vaccine provider orders in March compared to orders in March 2019.
- [73% drop](#) in HPV vaccination in early April compared to mid-February of 2020.
- Although wellness visits and vaccinations for younger children have recovered, visits and vaccinations for preteens and teens have not.

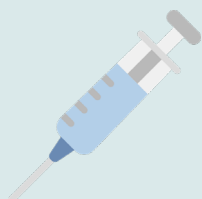
## HPV VACCINATION DURING COVID-19



- Despite the challenges we face during the pandemic, prevention of HPV related-cancers remains a public health priority, and we must provide the public with safe opportunities to vaccinate against HPV-related cancers.
- *Continued on next page*

## HPV VACCINATION DURING COVID-19, CONT.

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- Summer is usually the peak time for HPV vaccination; however, efforts should be made to get patients back on track with vaccinations throughout fall and winter as well.
- Prioritize pre-teens and younger adolescents, for whom vaccination is most effective at preventing cancer.
- Combine telehealth visits with in-person vaccine delivery.
- Find new means to vaccinate through parking lot clinics, community partnerships, mobile units or other creative solutions.

## MESSAGING TO PROMOTE HPV VACCINATION DURING COVID-19

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- Well-child visits and vaccinations are essential services.
- “Call, Don’t Cancel” to encourage patients to ask their providers if they need vaccines and whether it is safe to receive them at this time.
- Now is not the time to skip vaccinations. Vaccinating children on time is the best way to protect them.
- Encourage caregivers and parents to keep children safe by staying up to date on vaccinations during COVID-19. Clinics have changed to make it safe for children to get needed vaccines.
- HPV cancer disparities are already evident and, without deliberate focus, are likely to increase as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Failure to get back on track with HPV vaccination will delay our ability to reach the goal of eliminating HPV related-cancers, starting with cervical cancer, as a public health problem.