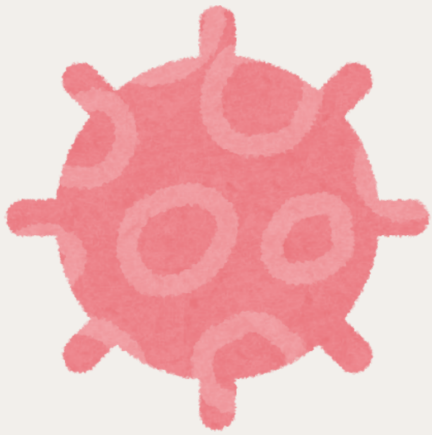


# Protect Me From...

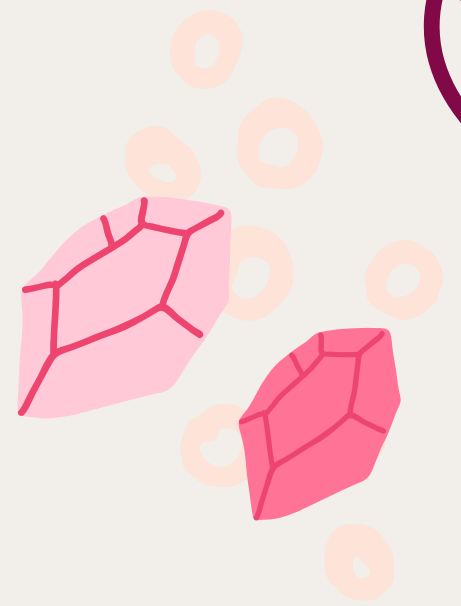
# HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS

## (HPV)



**DNA VIRUS WITH MULTIPLE SUBTYPES**

**CAUSES GENITAL WARTS AND SEVERAL TYPES OF CANCER, INCLUDING CANCERS OF THE CERVIX AND THROAT.**



### Disease Information

#### WHAT HAPPENS

HPV is a very common virus spread through close skin-to-skin contact. Most HPV infections go away on their own, but some types can cause:

- Cervical cancer
- Throat, anal, penile, vaginal, and vulvar cancers
- Warts

HPV infections often have no symptoms, so people may not know they are infected.

#### WHY GET VACCINATED

HPV vaccination prevents cancer

The vaccine protects against the types of HPV most likely to cause cancer. Vaccination works best when given before exposure to the virus, which is why it is recommended at a young age.

#### HOW IT SPREADS

- Spread through skin-to-skin contact
- Can be spread even when an infected person has no symptoms

### Vaccine Information

#### HOW IT WORKS

The HPV vaccine is a recombinant (non-live) vaccine that contains virus-like particles that mimic the outer surface of the virus's shell. That helps the immune system build protection against cancer-causing HPV types. It cannot cause HPV infection.

#### VACCINE SCHEDULE

- Recommended starting at ages 11–12 (can start as early as age 9)
- 2 doses if started before age 15
- 3 doses if started at age 15 or older or if immunocompromised

#### POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

Redness, soreness, or swelling at injection site  
Low-grade fever  
Headache, fatigue

# HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)



**I-LED**

**Immunization Literacy and  
Empowerment of Detroit**

## TALK WITH YOUR DOCTOR

If your child:

- Had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of HPV vaccine
- Has a severe allergy to any vaccine component
- Is moderately or severely ill at the time of vaccination
- Has questions about vaccine timing or dosing



**MORE  
INFORMATION  
FROM THE  
CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL OF  
PENNSYLVANIA**



**PLEASE FILL OUT A  
SHORT SURVEY TO  
HELP US IMPROVE**

## FAQ

### Is the HPV vaccine safe?

Yes. The HPV vaccine has been used for many years and is closely monitored for safety.

### Does the HPV vaccine cause HPV or cancer?

No. The HPV vaccine is not live and cannot cause HPV infection or cancer.

### Does the HPV vaccine encourage sexual activity?

No. Studies show HPV vaccination does not increase sexual activity. The vaccine is about cancer prevention.

### How long does protection last?

Protection is long-lasting. Studies show strong protection for many years with no evidence that boosters are needed .

### How effective is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is highly effective at preventing infections that cause most HPV-related cancers and genital warts when given before exposure.

### Can the HPV vaccine cause infertility?

No. There is no evidence that the HPV vaccine affects fertility. In fact, preventing HPV-related disease can help protect future reproductive health.