

# HPV\* Vaccine

## A Guide for Young Adults

\* human papillomavirus



HPV is a very common virus that can lead to:

- ▶ Cancers of the mouth and throat
- ▶ Cancer of the cervix
- ▶ Cancer of the penis, vagina, vulva, or anus
- ▶ Genital warts

*HPV vaccine can prevent these!*

### Do I really need HPV vaccine? **Yes!**

You should get HPV vaccine because it can prevent some types of cancer and genital warts.

### Do I need it if I haven't had sex yet? **Yes!**

- You don't have to have sex to catch HPV, but sex increases your risk.
- You can get HPV by skin-to-skin intimate contact.
- People can get and spread HPV without knowing it.
- It's best to get vaccinated before you ever have sex.

### Should I get HPV vaccine if I've already had sex? **Yes!**

You still need to get vaccinated even if you have had sex. The vaccine provides a lot of protection.

### Why do I need more than 1 shot?

You need a series of HPV shots to be fully protected.

### I didn't get the vaccine at age 11 or 12. Should I get it now? **Yes!**

HPV vaccination is recommended for people ages 9 through 26. Even though it is ideal to get HPV vaccine at age 11–12, it is still highly effective in teens and young adults.

### Is HPV vaccine safe? **Yes!**

- Millions of doses of HPV vaccine have been given without any problem.
- You may get a sore arm.
- Occasionally, a few people faint, so sit for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine.

Make sure you get all your HPV shots. Complete your series!

## When Should I Get HPV Vaccine?

*Make sure your healthcare provider reviews with you when you should be vaccinated.*

AGE AT FIRST DOSE	DOSE #2	DOSE #3
9 years until 15th birthday	6–12 months after dose #1	Not needed
15 years or older	1–2 months after dose #1	Approximately 4 months after dose #2

**NOTE:** If you have problems with your immune system, you will need to receive 3 doses of HPV vaccine.

For more information on vaccines for teens and young adults, visit [www.vaccineinformation.org/teens](http://www.vaccineinformation.org/teens) or [www.vaccineinformation.org/adults](http://www.vaccineinformation.org/adults)

*Adapted with permission from the Academic Pediatric Association*

## Other Information Related to HPV Vaccine:

### Who should get the vaccine?

HPV vaccine is recommended for young women and men, age 9 through 26 years.

### What if I have been told I already have HPV infection?

You should still get the vaccine. The HPV vaccine prevents infection with 9 different types of HPV. Although it cannot treat an infection you already have, it can protect you from all the other types of HPV that you have not had.

### If a dose of HPV vaccine is delayed, do I need to start the series over?

No, do not restart; just complete the series.

### Can the HPV vaccine be given at the same time as other vaccines?

Yes.

*Get the "anti-cancer" vaccine today.  
Don't be sorry tomorrow.*

### HPV vaccine at Metro Public Health Department of Nashville/Davidson Co.

- Under Preventive Services, Metro Public Health can bill TennCare for the HPV vaccine.
  - TennCare covers HPV vaccine for women and men through age 26 years under Preventive Care.
- Metro does not bill any other private insurance at this time.
- If you have private insurance and you want reimbursement, then see if your insurance company will accept our Patient Service Ledger as proof of vaccination for reimbursement purposes.
- Money for non-TennCare patients is collected at time of visit by cash, check, or credit card.
  - Price per dose is \$200.
- Immunizations are available at the following public health centers, no appointments, walk-in only:

**Lentz Public Health Center**  
2500 Charlotte Avenue  
(615) 340-5607

**East Nashville Public Health Center**  
1015 East Trinity Lane  
(615) 862-7916

**Woodbine Public Health Center**  
224 Oriol Street  
(615) 862-7940

- Patients are required to sign-in by 3:30 p.m. for walk-in services at all three Public Health Centers.
- Call for further details or go to:  
<http://www.nashville.gov/HealthDepartment/Clinical-Health-Services/Immunizations.aspx>



**Metro Public Health Dept**

Nashville / Davidson County

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