

Talking with Parents about HPV vaccine

Adapted from www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens

CDC research shows:

- ❖ The HPV vaccine is cancer prevention message resonates with parents. Studies show that a strong recommendation from you is the single best predictor of vaccination.
- ❖ Disease prevalence is not understood, and parents are unclear about what the vaccine actually protects against.
- ❖ Parents want a concrete reason to understand the recommendation that 11-12 year olds receive HPV vaccine.
- ❖ Parents may be concerned that vaccinating may be perceived by the child as permission to have sex.
- ❖ Parents might believe their child won't be exposed to HPV because they aren't sexually active or may not be for a long time.
- ❖ Emphasizing your personal belief in the importance of HPV vaccine helps parents feel secure in their decision.
- ❖ Many parents do not know that the full vaccine series requires 3 shots. Your reminder will help them to complete the series.
- ❖ Understanding that the side effects are minor and emphasizing the extensive research that vaccines must undergo can help parents feel reassured.
- ❖ Parents want to know that the HPV vaccine is effective.

Try saying:

- ❖ HPV vaccine is very important because it prevents cancer. That's why I recommend that your child receive the HPV vaccine today.
- ❖ HPV can cause cancers of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in women, cancer of the penis in men, and cancers of the anus and the mouth or throat in both women and men.
- ❖ We're vaccinating today so your child will have the best protection possible long before the start of any kind of sexual activity.
- ❖ Research has shown that getting the HPV vaccine does not make kids more likely to be sexually active or start having sex at a younger age.
- ❖ HPV is so common that almost everyone will be infected at some point and most of them will never know. Even if your child waits until marriage to have sex, or only has 1 partner in the future, he/she could still be infected from that partner.
- ❖ I strongly believe in the importance of this cancer-preventing vaccine. I have given HPV vaccine to my _____ (kids you know).
- ❖ Your child is not fully protected against HPV until he/she receives all 3 shots of HPV vaccine. Please schedule Dose 2 before you leave the office today.
- ❖ HPV vaccine has been shown to be very effective and very safe. Most side effects are mild, primarily pain or redness in the arm that goes away quickly. HPV vaccine has not been associated with any long-term or serious side effects.
- ❖ Studies in the U.S. and other countries that have introduced HPV vaccine have shown a significant reduction in infections and cancer caused by the HPV types targeted by the vaccine.