



Factsheet for Health Care Workers

Frequently Asked Questions About HPV Vaccination

What health care workers say matters; how they say it matters even more. Many parents will choose to get their daughters vaccinated with the HPV vaccine when the health care worker strongly recommends the vaccine and answers their questions.

Recommend HPV vaccine in the same way as you recommend other vaccines.

You may say,

“Your daughter is now 10 years old; she is due for the vaccine against cervical and other HPV cancers. You should take her to the health facility to get the free vaccine. Get your daughter vaccinated today. Protect her future from cervical cancer.”

If a parent hesitates or asks a question after your recommendation, start by asking them,

“Tell me what is your main worry?”



Address parents' questions and worries using the responses below as a starting point.

Why should my daughter get the HPV vaccine?

HPV vaccination is important because it will protect her from HPV infections that cause almost all cervical cancers, which is the second most common cancer among women in Kenya. On-time HPV vaccination can help protect her from developing cervical cancer when she is older.

Who is eligible for the HPV vaccine?

When they turn 10, girls become eligible for HPV vaccination in Kenya. The vaccine is available free of charge at all public health facilities, to all girls aged between 10-14 years.

Why is the vaccine only given to girls?

Cervical cancer, which only occurs in women, is the leading cause of cancer deaths in Kenya. Girls are prioritized for free HPV vaccination right now.

Is HPV vaccination safe?

Vaccines used for immunization in Kenya are safe. However, it's important to report side effects to the nearest facility. Common side effects of vaccination include: fever and injection site irritation (pain, swelling and redness). If the side effects are of concern, please take your daughter to the nearest health facility.

Like all other vaccines in Kenya, HPV vaccine is approved and distributed by the Ministry of Health.

Is my daughter really at risk for HPV infection?

HPV is a very common infection. Nearly everyone will get an HPV infection at some point in their lives. On-time HPV vaccination will help protect her from the cancers and diseases caused by HPV when she is older.

Can HPV vaccine prevent other cancers?

Yes. HPV is a common virus that can cause six types of cancer. In women, HPV can cause cervical, throat, anal, vaginal, and vulvar cancer. In men, HPV can cause throat, anal, and penile cancer. Almost all cervical cancers are caused by a persistent HPV infection. On-time HPV vaccination can help protect your daughter from getting most of these cancers in the future.

How long will the HPV vaccine last?

HPV vaccine provides long-lasting protection. When your daughter gets HPV vaccine, she will make proteins called antibodies that fight the virus. Antibodies from this vaccine give strong and long-lasting protection. Research will continue to look at how long protection against HPV lasts, and if booster shots will be needed.

How many doses will my daughter get?

Most girls will receive 2 doses. Three doses are required for girls who are immunocompromised and/or HIV-infected.

Why does my daughter need HPV vaccination if she is not sexually active?

I understand your daughter is not sexually active. HPV vaccine is about cancer prevention, and it works best when given at younger ages for a stronger immune response and before a girl becomes sexually active.

Will HPV vaccination affect my daughter's fertility?

HPV vaccine does not cause fertility problems. There is no data to suggest that getting HPV vaccine could harm chances of having children later on. In fact, HPV vaccine can help protect fertility by preventing problems linked to the treatment of cervical pre-cancer and cancer.

Do I have to pay for HPV vaccine?

No. HPV vaccine is free for girls starting at age 10. All girls between the ages of 10 and 14 years can get 2-doses of HPV vaccine free of charge at any public health facility.

Would you give HPV vaccine to your daughter and/or granddaughter?

Yes, my daughter (or granddaughter) got HPV vaccine when she was 11, because I wanted to help protect her from cancer in the future.

OR

If I had a daughter or granddaughter that was between 10-14 years, I would recommend HPV vaccine to help protect her from cervical cancer in the future.

For more information about HPV Vaccine, contact your nearest health facility or visit:

Twitter  @MOH_Kenya

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