

# HPV Vaccination Dosing Guide & FAQ for Physicians

## HPV Vaccination Dosing Schedule

HPV vaccination is an important cancer prevention tool. Two doses of the HPV vaccine are recommended for 9-14 year old girls and three doses for girls age 15 and older, and some patients known to be immunocompromised and/or HIV-infected.


**ON TIME**



Ages 9-14  
2 Doses

6-12 months apart

**LATE – EXTRA DOSE**



Ages 15-26  
3 Doses

1st dose at visit one  
2nd dose 1-2 months later  
3rd dose 6 months after 1st dose

\*World Health Organization guidelines recently changed to allow 1 or 2 doses of HPV vaccine. Find more information on WHO recommendations [here](#).

### Can the HPV vaccine cause HPV infection?

No. None of the vaccines contain live biological products or viral DNA, and therefore are noninfectious.

### Does the HPV vaccine cause side-effects?

HPV vaccination is very safe. Like other vaccines, the common side effects from HPV vaccination are mild and might include: fever, headache, and pain and redness in the arm where the shot was given. Like any medical procedure, there is a risk of fainting. HPV vaccines should be administered while the child is seated or lying down, and they should remain seated for 15 minutes.

### Is HPV vaccine mandatory for all young girls?

Just like other adolescent vaccines, HPV vaccination is optional. Though optional, vaccination of all girls will be critical to eliminate cervical cancer from India.

### Why is it not recommended for boys?

The HPV vaccine is recommended for both boys and girls to prevent HPV-related cancers in men and women. However, as the burden of cervical cancer is currently far greater in women than HPV-related cancers in men, focusing on vaccinating girls first will save the most lives in the future.

## Why do we vaccinate starting at such a young age?

Younger people have a much better immune response to the vaccine than those in their late teens and early 20s. That is why 9 - 14 year olds need fewer doses than older teens.

## After HPV vaccination, is screening advised?

Screening for precancers and malignancy should be done regularly in the population after the age of 30 years. Vaccination does not eliminate the need for screening and HPV testing.

## Is it included in the UIP schedule?

In December 2022, NTAGI (National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization) recommended the HPV vaccine be included in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) and it is expected to be added in 2023.

## Should there be a gap between HPV vaccination and other pre-teen and teen vaccines, including the COVID vaccine?

HPV vaccination may be safely administered along with Td/Tdap, as well as the COVID-19 vaccine.

## What is the best way to counsel parents of young girls about the HPV vaccine?

Recommend the HPV vaccine the same way that you recommend other vaccines. You may say, *your child is 9 years old and she is due for the HPV cancer prevention vaccine today.*

## What is the difference in the HPV vaccines available in India?

Three types of HPV vaccine are available—bivalent, quadrivalent, and 9-valent. All three vaccines are highly efficacious in preventing infection with virus types 16 and 18, which together are responsible for more than 80% of cervical cancer cases in India. The quadrivalent and 9-valent vaccines are highly efficacious in preventing anogenital warts, a common genital disease which is virtually always caused by infection with HPV types 6 and 11. The 9-valent vaccine provides additional protection against HPV types 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58. Data from clinical trials and initial post-marketing surveillance conducted in several continents show all three vaccines to be safe.

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[PreventGlobalHPVCancers.org](https://PreventGlobalHPVCancers.org)