

The Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV) Vaccine for Women

The **Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV)** is spread by having sex. Many sexually active young men and women in their late teens or early 20s are infected with **HPV**. Most **HPV** infections don't have any symptoms and the infection goes away on its own. But, **HPV** infection can cause cervical cancer and genital warts. Cervical cancer can sometimes lead to death.

The **HPV** vaccine protects against the 4 major types of **HPV** infection. These cause most cervical cancers and genital warts. It is recommended for girls and women ages 11 to 26.

Talk with your primary care provider about receiving the **HPV** vaccine if:

- Are 26 or younger and have not already received the vaccination

The **HPV** vaccine is a series of 3 shots given over 6 months.

The vaccine is safe. You will not get **HPV** from the vaccine. After each shot you may have some discomfort, redness or swelling where the needle went in, or a mild fever.

Regular screening for cervical cancer with a PAP smear is important, even if you receive the HPV vaccine. Talk with your health care team about getting screened.