

October 2017 post: HPV vaccination guidelines, talking points and more (*by Patricia Purcell, MD, FAAP*)

The beginning of fall brings many well check-ups - looking at your schedule, you see numerous eleven-year-olds scheduled for the day. Your first 11-year-old of the day is a young girl whom you have seen since birth. While her parents always eventually consent to the necessary vaccines, they often have a great deal of hesitancy. You can predict that they may not want to obtain HPV in addition to her other 11-year-old vaccines. You decide to read up on what is the newest data on HPV and what most parents' concerns entail.

The latest HPV vaccination coverage estimates from the [2016 National Immunization Survey-Teen](#) show that most parents are choosing to get the HPV vaccine for their child. In 2016, 60 percent of teens aged 13-17 years received one or more doses of HPV vaccine, an increase of 4 percentage points from 2015.

Although most children are getting their first dose of HPV vaccine, many children are not completing the vaccination series. Only 43 percent of teens are up to date on all the recommended doses of HPV vaccine. HPV vaccination rates are lower in rural and less urban areas.

### [HPV vaccine guidelines](#)

Adolescents who get the first dose of HPV vaccine before their 15th birthday need two doses of HPV vaccine to be protected against HPV cancers. The second dose of HPV should be given 6 months after the first.

Teens and young adults who start the series at ages 15 through 26 years need three doses of HPV vaccine to be protected against HPV cancers. The three dose HPV series should be given at 0, 1-2, and 6 months.

[Studies](#) show that teens are more likely to receive the HPV vaccine if a physician recommends it!

### [Talking Points for HPV](#)

1. Recommend the vaccine for ALL children at the SAME age.
2. It is a safe vaccine that has been extensively studied and has few side effects.
3. It is extremely effective.
4. It can be helpful to refer to it as the "cancer prevention vaccine."
5. It DOES NOT encourage sexual activity.
6. Emphasize your personal belief that HPV is important.

Another great resource besides CDC for talking points is the [AAP HPV Toolkit](#).