

HPV and HPV Vaccination: What Every College Student Should Know

What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection. Many infections occur among people in their late teens and early twenties. Some HPV infections can lead to cancer later in life.

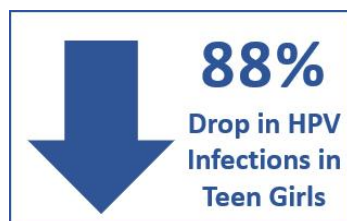


HPV is estimated to cause about 37,000 cases of cancer in men and women every year in the U.S. – more than the national average attendance for a college football game!

Of the cancers caused by HPV, only cervical cancer can be detected early with a Pap test. Other cancers caused by HPV (cancers of the throat, genitals, or anus) may not be detected until they are more serious. HPV vaccination prevents infections that cause all of these cancers.

How can I protect myself from HPV?

HPV vaccination can prevent over 90% of cancers caused by HPV. HPV vaccine has a long safety record that's backed by over 15 years of monitoring. If they occur, common side effects are mild and get better within a day or two.



HPV vaccination works extremely well. Since HPV vaccination was first recommended in 2006, infections with HPV types that cause most HPV cancers have dropped 88% among teen girls and 81% among young adult women.

Who should get the vaccine and when should they get it?

The HPV vaccine is often given at the same time as other adolescent vaccines. If you haven't received 2 or 3 doses of HPV vaccine yet, it's recommended to complete the series as soon as possible.

Where can I get the HPV vaccine?

Ask your student health center, health care provider, or pharmacist to learn more about HPV vaccine and if they carry it. HPV vaccine is covered by most health insurance plans.

For more information on HPV, the vaccine, and cancer prevention, visit the [California Department of Public Health](#).