



Protecting Your Child from the Human Papillomavirus (HPV): The New Two-Dose Vaccine Schedule

It is important to protect your child from HPV, which can be related to certain forms of cancer. The new HPV vaccine guidelines make it easier to get the vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that only two doses of the vaccine are now needed for protection.¹ The new HPV vaccine schedule recommends that children receive the second dose six to 12 months after the first dose.

What is HPV?

HPV is a virus that can cause multiple forms of cancer. The most common cancers caused by HPV are cancers of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in females. Cancer of the penis is the most common cancer caused by HPV in males.²

How many shots does my child need?

The original vaccine required three shots. Some children on the three-dose vaccine may not need the third dose. It depends on when they received their last shot.

- If your child received the second dose **one to two months after the first dose**, he or she **will** need to complete the third dose before their 13th birthday.
- If your child received the second dose **at least five months after the first dose**, he or she **will not** need a third dose.

Children just starting the series will be on the two-dose schedule. They will need the second dose six to 12 months after the first dose. This must be completed before the child's 13th birthday.

Is the HPV vaccine safe?

HPV vaccines are required to go through years of safety testing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration before they are approved and made available to the public. Studies show that each of the HPV vaccines is very safe, and ongoing monitoring has not shown any problems with the HPV vaccine.³



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How to get your child vaccinated?

Make an appointment with your child's primary care provider. The vaccine can be given during a routine well visit, along with other age-appropriate vaccines.

Your child needs the following preventive care:

- An annual well visit.
- Immunizations before their 13th birthday:
 - HPV.
 - Meningococcal conjugate.
 - Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap).
 - Flu vaccine.

First Choice can help you with your child's HPV shots. Let us know if you need help making appointments, getting transportation, or have questions about your benefits. Please call Member Services at **1-888-276-2020**.

Nurse Care Manager toll free:
1-888-276-2020, ext. 55251.

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Sources:

1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Clinician FAQs: CDC Recommendations for HPV Vaccine 2-Dose Schedule." Accessed on July 20, 2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/2-dose/clinician-faq.html>

2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The Link Between HPV and Cancer." Accessed on July 20, 2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/cancer.html>

3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Safety." Accessed on July 20, 2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaccines/hpv-vaccine.html>

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