

The HPV Vaccine

A shot that helps prevent cancer

QUICK FACTS

The HPV vaccine helps protect against cancer-causing types of HPV.

WHAT IT DOES

It helps prevent cancer

- The HPV vaccine protects against types of HPV that can cause cancer.
- It is a shot. You get it in your arm.

WHO CAN GET IT

Ages 9 and up

- Kids and teens can start at age 9.
- People up to age 26 can usually get it for free with insurance.
- Adults over 26 can still get it. Ask your doctor if it is right for you.

DOES IT COST MONEY

Coverage by age

- Through age 26: Most health plans pay for the vaccine. You should not have to pay.
- After age 26: Some plans pay. Some do not. Ask your plan.
- Medicaid pays for the vaccine.

WHERE TO GET IT

Many places offer it

- Your doctor's office or clinic.
- A community health center.
- The health department.
- Some pharmacies, for ages 9 and up.
- School-based programs, for kids and teens.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

The vaccine plus screening

- The vaccine does not protect against every type of HPV.
- Even with the vaccine, you still need cervical cancer screening.

SOURCES & EVIDENCE

Information current as of May 2026

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HPV Vaccine Recommendations. [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), 2025.
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- Kaiser Family Foundation. The HPV Vaccine: Access and Use in the U.S. [kff.org](https://www.kff.org), 2026.
- American Cancer Society. HPV Vaccine. [cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org), 2024.