



Ask your  
child's  
doctor  
about other  
preteen  
vaccines  
too.

# Got a preteen daughter?



## »» For more information check out these online resources:

[www.hpvvaccineca.org](http://www.hpvvaccineca.org)

**HPV Vaccine Questions and Answers**  
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)  
[www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV-vaccine.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV-vaccine.htm)

**Patient Resources**  
(Cervical Cancer and HPV Project, CMA Foundation)  
[www.calmedfoundation.org/projects/HPV/PatientResources.aspx](http://www.calmedfoundation.org/projects/HPV/PatientResources.aspx)

**Preteen Vaccine Information**  
(California Department of Public Health)  
[www.GetImmunizedCA.org](http://www.GetImmunizedCA.org)

Consider  
the HPV vaccine  
to prevent  
Cervical Cancer.

▶ Here's why.



# Most cervical cancer now can be prevented with a vaccine!

» Parents: you can help your daughter prevent cervical cancer. After many years of research and testing, there is a safe, effective vaccine to prevent most cervical cancers. It is called the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. Three HPV shots over six months will protect your daughter from cervical cancer in the future.«

## What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus. About 80% of women become infected during their lives. Most of the time, HPV causes no symptoms at all. Your body just fights these viruses off. Some types of HPV virus cause genital warts in women and men. These are usually not serious. However, some HPV viruses can lead to cervical cancer later in life.

## Who gets cervical cancer?

In the United States, about 11,150 women get cervical cancer each year. Cervical cancer is caused by HPV. If found in time, it is treatable. But, almost 3,700 women die yearly from this disease.

## How do women get HPV?

HPV infection causing cervical cancer is sexually transmitted. Infection can last many years without symptoms, and most people don't know they have it. So, HPV can even be shared between husband and wife.

» Make sure your preteen daughter gets her HPV shots and other preteen vaccines. Call your doctor today. You can help make your daughter's future brighter by protecting her today from cervical cancer.«

## When should my daughter get the HPV vaccine?

National health organizations recommend the HPV vaccine for all 11- and 12-year-old girls. Other preteen shots for all 11 and 12 year olds include:

- » tetanus booster (Tdap) with protection against whooping cough.
- » meningococcal meningitis shot (MCV4) to protect against meningitis or life-threatening meningococcal infection.

## Who else should get the vaccine?

For girls who did not get the HPV vaccine at 11 or 12, it's not too late. Teen girls and young women up to 26 can also get the shots. In some cases, doctors may give the HPV vaccine to girls as young as 9. Your daughter's doctor can help answer questions about what age is right.

## Is it safe?

Clinical trials with thousands of young women and girls found no serious side effects. But a sore arm is common.

## Are HPV shots required for school?

No. But doctors recommend it as one of the shots your preteen daughter needs.

## After the HPV vaccine, will Pap smears still be needed later on?

Yes. Starting at age 21 (or younger for sexually active teens), all young women should get a Pap smear, or Pap test. This test checks for early cancer that can happen after HPV infection. Even after getting the HPV vaccine, regular Pap tests will still be important because the vaccine does not offer 100% protection from cervical cancer.

## Are these vaccines covered by health insurance?

Check with your doctor's office or health plan to see if your insurance covers HPV and other preteen vaccines. Medi-Cal, the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program, and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program cover these vaccines through age 18.

