

pennsylvania Cancer Coalition

March 6, 2024

Dear Pennsylvania Health Providers,

Nationally, the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is estimated to cause about 37,300 new cases of cancer each year.¹

We have an opportunity to greatly reduce HPV-associated cancers. Unfortunately, many people forego the opportunity to get the safe and effective vaccine that prevents six different cancers associated with the HPV, including oral pharyngeal and cervical cancer. HPV vaccination is recommended for people ages 9-26 and should be considered for people up to age 45.

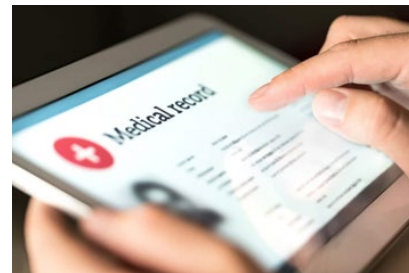
The American Cancer Society and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend vaccination at age 9. Several of Pennsylvania's professional organizations strongly support this approach including the Pennsylvania Chapter of the AAP, the Pennsylvanian Immunization Coalition (PAIC), the Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition's HPV Related Cancers Workgroup, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

In Pennsylvania, approximately two-thirds of boys and girls under age 18 are fully vaccinated against HPV-associated cancers.² However, in Pennsylvania's rural communities just over half of rural living teens have received their HPV vaccines. Nationally, approximately 27% of males and 53.6% of females between the ages of 18-26 are vaccinated.³

We must work together to address this public health issue and increase our HPV vaccination efforts among Pennsylvania's adolescents and adults. Pennsylvania has partnered with Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia, and Washington D.C. in a multi-state Call-to-Action to increase HPV vaccination through strong and consistent provider recommendations and initiation of the HPV vaccination at age 9.

CALL TO ACTION:

- Set your **electronic health record** and pharmacy notifications from age 9 years through 45 years for men and women. Starting at age 9 has been shown to increase vaccine completion by 22 times.⁴
- Make a **strong recommendation for HPV vaccines for all patients ages 9 through 26 years**. Data show that your recommendation may improve vaccinations by up to 5 times.⁵ **For adults ages 27 through 45 years, engage in shared decision making** to help determine the benefits of vaccination. Vaccination recommendation



¹ National Cancer Institute. HPV and Cancer. <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/infectious-agents/hpv-and-cancer>.

² <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/teenvaxview/data-reports/index.html>

³ McElfish PA, et al. Race, Nativity, and Sex Disparities in Human Papillomavirus Vaccination among Young Adults in the USA. *J Racial Ethn Health Disparities*. 2021 Oct;8(5):1260-1266. doi: 10.1007/s40615-020-00886-5..


⁴ O'Leary ST. Why the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends initiating HPV vaccine at age 9. *Hum Vaccin Immunother*. 2022 Nov 30;18(6):2146434. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2022.2146434.

⁵ Yitalo KR, Lee H, Mehta NK. Health care provider recommendation, human papillomavirus vaccination, and race/ethnicity in the US National Immunization Survey. *Am J Public Health*. 2013 Jan;103(1):164-9. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2011.300600. Epub 2012 Jun 14. PMID: 22698055; PMCID: PMC3518336.

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should be made in all healthcare settings to include acute, non-acute, GYN, dental and pharmacy locations.

- Encourage **same day vaccination** in your facility.
- **Leverage your local pharmacy** especially for **ADULTS** to deliver vaccinations. If you are not able to stock vaccine at your facility, e-prescribe/prescribe to the pharmacy. The prescription will activate pharmacy reminder systems which will improve compliance.
- Review your patients who have not completed their 2 or 3 dose series and **proactively recall patients** to your facility or e-prescribe to your local pharmacy to complete the series.
- **Check adult patients** through age 45 to ensure they have completed their HPV series.
- Identify an **immunization champion** at your facility.
- Implement **standing orders** which can be found at [Vaccine Standing Orders for Healthcare Providers \(immunize.org\)](http://immunize.org).



**IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO STOCK
THE HPV VACCINE AT YOUR
FACILITY, PRESCRIBE TO THE
PHARMACY.**

The Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program provides free HPV vaccines for all kids enrolled in Pennsylvania Medicaid or who do not have insurance. The HPV vaccine is a covered benefit for insurances through age 26. Additionally, over 95% of insurance plans cover the HPV vaccine for people ages 27 through 45 years with share decision making, which can be documented with an e-prescription / prescription.

Please review the resources and links at the end of the letter specifically highlighting:

- [Immunizations \(pa.gov\)](http://pa.gov) HPV | All AAP | AAP
- A no-cost MOC project- HPV: Don't Wait. Vaccinate! Increasing First Dose HPV Vaccine for Teens.
- American Academy of Pediatrics HPV age 9 toolkit and vaccination site.
- Why the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends initiating HPV vaccine at age 9

Thank you for all that you do to improve the health of your patients and for your participation in this important effort to prevent cancer by increasing the HPV vaccination in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Debra L. Bogen, MD
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Health

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Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics Resources

- American Academy of Pediatrics webpage featuring various tools and resources (<https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/human-papillomavirus-hpv>)
- American Academy of Pediatrics HPV vaccination patient care webpage (<https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/immunizations/human-papillomavirus-vaccines/>)
- [Full article: Why the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends initiating HPV vaccine at age 9 \(tandfonline.com\)](https://www.tandfonline.com)

National HPV Roundtable Clinical and Health System Action Guides

Clinical Guides

- Physicians, Physician Assistants & Nurse Practitioners https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Action-Guide_Providers_FINAL-1-1.pdf
- Nurses & Medical Assistants https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/HPV-Vaccination_Action-Guide_RN_MA_FINAL-1.pdf
- Dentists & Hygienists <https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/DENTAL-Action-Guide-WEB-1.pdf>
- Office Administrative Staff Teams <https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/OFFICE-TEAMS-Action-Guide-WEB-1.pdf>

Systems Guides

- Small Private Practices <https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SMALL-PRACTICES-Action-Guide-WEB-1.pdf>
- Large Health Systems <https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/LARGE-SYSTEMS-Action-Guide-WEB-1.pdf>