

### How common is oral HPV?

Studies in the U.S. have found that about 7% of people have oral HPV. But only 1% of people have the type of oral HPV that is found in oropharyngeal cancers (HPV type 16). Oral HPV is about three times more common in men than in women.

### How common are cancers of the oropharynx?

Each year, in the U.S., about 9,000 people are diagnosed with cancers of the oropharynx that may be caused by HPV. Cancers of the oropharynx are about four times more common in men than women.

### How do people get oral HPV?

Only a few studies have looked at how people get oral HPV, and some of these studies show conflicting results. Some studies suggest that oral HPV may be passed on during oral sex (from mouth-to-genital or mouth-to-anus contact) or open-mouthed ("French") kissing, others have not. The likelihood of getting HPV from kissing or having oral sex with someone who has HPV is not known. We do know that partners who have been together a long time tend to share genital HPV—meaning they both may have it. More research is needed to understand exactly how people get and give oral HPV infections.

### How can I lower my risk of giving or getting oral HPV?

At this time no studies have explored how oral HPV can be prevented. However, it is likely that condoms and dental dams, when used consistently and correctly, will lower the chances of giving or getting oral HPV during oral sex, since they serve as barriers, and can stop the transmission of HPV from person to person. More research is needed to understand how oral HPV is passed on, how it can be prevented, and who is most likely to develop health problems from an oral HPV infection.

### Is there a test for me to find out if I have oral HPV?

There is no FDA-approved test to diagnose HPV in the mouth or throat. Medical and dental organizations do not recommend screening for oral HPV. More research is needed to find out if screening for oropharyngeal cancers will have health benefits. Talk to your dentist about any symptoms that could suggest early signs of oropharyngeal cancer.

### Can HPV vaccines prevent oral HPV and oropharyngeal cancers?

HPV vaccines that are now on the market were developed to prevent cervical and other less common genital cancers. It is possible that HPV vaccines might also prevent oropharyngeal cancers, since the vaccines prevent an initial infection with HPV types that can cause oropharyngeal cancers, but studies have not yet been done to determine if HPV vaccines will prevent oropharyngeal cancers.

Where can I get more information?

STD information

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/>

HPV Information

<https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/>

HPV Vaccination

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hpv/>

Cancer Information

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/>

Cervical Cancer Screening

[https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic\\_info/screening.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic_info/screening.htm)

CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/>

CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN)

<https://npin.cdc.gov/disease/stds>

P.O. Box 6003

Rockville, MD 20849-6003

E-mail: [npin-info@cdc.gov](mailto:npin-info@cdc.gov)

National HPV and Cervical Cancer Prevention Resource Center  
American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)

<http://www.ashasexualhealth.org/stdsstis/hpv/>

P. O. Box 13827

Research Triangle Park, NC

27709-3827

1-800-783-9877

CDC-INFO Contact Center

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

TTY: (888) 232-6348

Contact CDC-INFO

<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/dcs/ContactUs/Form>



# VACCINES FOR TEENS

## Keep your adolescent vaccinations up to date

Kids grow out of many things, but vaccines aren't one of them. Every year in the U.S., 2.5 million people die from vaccine-preventable diseases. Because adolescents are at risk for many of these serious diseases, immunization is especially important. Ask your healthcare professional about all recommended vaccines to protect your child.

### Did you know that in the U.S.:

**14 million**  
people  
are infected

with human papillomavirus (HPV)—mostly teens and young adults—leaving them vulnerable to associated cancers later in life?

**21%**  
of all

meningococcal disease cases are preteens, teens, and young adults, ages 11–24?

Up to **200,000**  
people

are hospitalized annually due to flu-related complications?

There were an average of **200,000**  
cases

of pertussis each year before the Tdap vaccine was available, and since then, cases of the disease have decreased more than 80%?

**80%**  
decrease

### CDC-recommended vaccinations for adolescents:

AGES	Every year	flu vaccine
11–12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HPV (2 doses)</li> <li>Meningococcal ACWY</li> <li>Tdap</li> </ul>	
13–15 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meningococcal ACWY (if not previously vaccinated)</li> </ul>	
16–18 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meningococcal B*</li> <li>Meningococcal ACWY booster</li> </ul>	
18–25 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Td booster every 10 years</li> </ul>	

\*Recommended for certain high-risk groups.

## Remember the 4

**HPV (Human papillomavirus)**—The vaccine is most effective at preventing associated cancers for both boys and girls when given during preteen years.

**Meningococcal**—Two types of meningococcal disease vaccines protect against the most common serogroups. Teens should start the ACWY vaccine at 11–15 years old, with a booster dose between 16 and 18 years. They may also get the serogroup B vaccine at 16–18 years of age.

**Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis [whooping cough]) and Td Booster (Tetanus and Diphtheria):** Adolescents should receive a Tdap vaccine between the ages of 11–12. Regular boosters of Td vaccine are recommended every 10 years to protect those at risk.

**Flu**—Flu season typically starts in October, and the virus can mutate each year. Annual vaccination is recommended.

### ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE

**PROVIDER** if your adolescent needs a catch-up vaccine to protect them from

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Chickenpox
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- Pneumococcal disease\*



**UNITY**  
United for adolescent vaccination

For more information, visit [www.unity4teenvax.org](http://www.unity4teenvax.org)