

Debunking HPV vaccine myths: what you need to know



The HPV vaccine is very helpful in preventing cancers such as cervical, throat and anal. We understand that there are many myths about the harm the HPV vaccine may cause, which might make you hesitant to get it. We'd like to share the facts below to assure you that the HPV vaccine is a safe and effective step you can take to avoid some serious health issues in the future.

Myth #1:



The HPV vaccine is not safe and could cause cancer or make it hard to get pregnant.

Fact: The HPV vaccine is safe and works well. It went through many tests and continues to be watched. The vaccine prevents high-risk HPV types that cause cancer with only mild side effects. There is no reliable information that it causes cancer or makes it hard to get pregnant.

Myth #2:



The vaccine is only for girls.

Fact: The HPV vaccine is for both boys and girls. HPV causes cancers in both. When boys get the vaccine too it helps stop the spread of HPV.

Myth #3:



Getting the HPV vaccine can wait until after a person starts having sex.

Fact: The HPV vaccine works best when a person gets it before they are sexually active. The best time is between ages 9-12. The earlier a person gets the vaccine, the better it works. Waiting to get the vaccine keeps it from working as well as it could.

Myth #4:



If my child missed the vaccine as a teenager, it's too late.

Fact: The vaccine can still help stop new HPV infections and cancers, even if you get it as an adult. The CDC recommends the HPV vaccine through age 26.

Myth #5:



There's no need to get the vaccine because HPV does not cause cancer.

Fact: Research shows HPV causes several kinds of cancers. These cancers include cancer of the cervix, anus and throat.