Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get more resources on HPV?

This resource from Do Something provides talking points for young people to have a conversation with their parents about the HPV vaccine.

Can HPV be prevented?

Unlike most STIs, such as chlamydia or gonorrhea, there is currently no oral test for HPV.

Can HPV be prevented?

There are nearly 14 million new cases of HPV diagnosed every year. Young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 account for nearly 50% of HPV diagnoses. In fact, it is estimated that 8 out of 10 people will get HPV at some point in their lives.

HPV: Not Too Late

HPV vaccine

According to recent data, 78.9% of vaccine-eligible teens ages 13-17 in Maryland, for example, initiated the HPV vaccine series compared to 71.5% of teens in the U.S.

Is there a test for HPV?

A healthcare provider may be able to provide a diagnosis by conducting a Pap smear, or by using an acetic acid (vinegar) solution test on any growths that may be genital. But don’t worry, there are options available to get HPV vaccinated without having to see a healthcare provider. It is not uncommon for people to have HPV without knowing it, which is why it is important to learn about the correct and consistent use of latex condoms,

TIP SHEET

For people with a uterus, HPV is often diagnosed through an abnormal Pap smear. This is a test that looks for cellular changes in the cells lining the cervix. If the Pap smear is abnormal, a healthcare provider may take samples from the cervix, vagina, or vulva to look for HPV. (A recent study also found that a self-collected test for HPV is just as effective as a doctor-administered test.

What is HPV?

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common STI in the United States but perhaps one of the most misunderstood. To prepare you to talk with young people about HPV, we’ve got the answers to their most frequently asked questions.

Does HPV cause health problems?

If the young person’s health insurance does not cover the cost of the vaccine or they do not have health insurance, they may be eligible to get the vaccine for free through various programs.

Who else can I talk to about getting the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine may be available at a doctor’s office, or at local community health clinics, health departments, or school-based health centers. Many large pharmacies also offer HPV vaccinations, but it is important to check with your insurer to see if your plan covers the vaccine.

How can young people get the HPV vaccine?

According to DoSomething.org, the HPV vaccine is effective.

Can HPV be prevented?

Unfortunately, no, there is no cure for HPV, which is why it is important to practice safe sex, limit the number of sexual partners, and, if possible, complete the three dose series.

Is there a cure for HPV?

While in most cases HPV goes away on its own, it can cause health problems, such as genital warts. Genital warts are soft bumps that appear on the genitals; they may form as a single bump or cluster of bumps. They can vary in shape and size and typically cause itching and discomfort.

How can young people get the HPV vaccine?

We strongly encourage young people to have a conversation with their healthcare provider and their parents/caregiver/trusted adult about the HPV vaccine.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

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What you need to know about the HPV test:

There are many myths surrounding the HPV vaccine. They may think that they don’t need it because they have never had sex or because they had sex with just one partner. They may believe that they don’t need to get vaccinated at a certain age or that it is too late to get vaccinated. But the truth is, you can get vaccinated at any age. It is important to talk with a healthcare provider about the HPV vaccine and to make a plan to get vaccinated.

How can I talk to my parents about the HPV vaccine?

We strongly encourage young people to have a conversation with their healthcare provider and their parents/caregiver/trusted adult about the HPV vaccine.

What is HPV?

Human Papillomavirus, or HPV, is a group of more than 200 viruses, of which around 40 are spread through sexual contact.

Does HPV cause health problems?

HPV is transmitted through vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has the virus. HPV can be spread even if a person shows no signs or symptoms of infection. It is also possible to develop symptoms years after having sexual intercourse with an infected person, making it difficult to know when you first became infected with the virus.

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