

## WHAT IS HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a widespread virus. HPV does not just affect girls. HPV causes genital warts and penile, anal, head, and neck cancers in men. One in 100 men have HPV-related genital warts at any given time.

**One in two people will get HPV, which can lead to genital warts and cancer.**

**Learn the facts.**



## WHAT IS THE COST?

For adolescents under 18 years of age who qualify, the vaccine is available at little or no cost through the *Vaccines for Children* program. Check with your doctor to see if your son is eligible. Most health insurance plans cover the HPV vaccine. Check with your insurance provider to see if your insurance covers the cost of the vaccine.

## HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

**North Carolina Immunization Branch**  
[www.immunize.nc.gov](http://www.immunize.nc.gov)

**U.S. Centers for Disease Control  
National Immunization Program**  
English: (800) 232-2522  
Spanish: (800) 232-0233  
TTY: (800) 243-7889  
<http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/vaccine.html>

**American Social Health Association**  
STI Resource Center Hotline: (919) 361-8488  
[www.ashastd.org](http://www.ashastd.org)



*This brochure is for informational purposes only and is not meant to replace consultation with your physician or other health care provider. The development and design of this brochure are based on the research reported in Cates, J. R., Ortiz, R. R., Shafer, A., Romocki, L. S., & Coyne Beasley, T. (2012). HPV Vaccine for Males: Designing Messages to Motivate Parents to Vaccinate Their Pre-Teen Sons. Perspectives in Sexual and Reproductive Health, 44(1), 39-47.*

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## What you need to know about HPV Vaccination for Your Son



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES; DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov); [www.ncdhhs.gov/dss](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss)

## WHO GETS HPV?

HPV infects both men and women. You can get the virus through any kind of genital contact with someone who has HPV. Many people who have HPV have no signs or symptoms. In the United States, six million people become newly infected with HPV each year.

**HPV does not just affect girls. The vaccine can protect your son from HPV and certain cancers.**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Serious side effects from the vaccine are rare. Occasional, mild side effects include pain at the injection site, headache, fever, nausea, and fainting. Sitting or lying down for 15 minutes after vaccination can help prevent fainting. The HPV vaccine was tested in thousands of men and women around the world.

## THE HPV VACCINE

The HPV vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect against most cases of genital warts and HPV-related cancers. The vaccine is given as three injections over six months.

## WHY SHOULD MY SON BE VACCINATED NOW?

HPV vaccine is recommended for both boys and girls ages 11-12. Catch-up vaccination can be given to both boys and girls ages 13-26. The vaccine is most effective against HPV if given at an early age.

**Talk to your family doctor, and get your son vaccinated**

