

Monthly Immunization Update

January 2025

Dear Schools and partners ,

The purpose of this newsletter is to deliver quick and meaningful updates to support our schools and partners in a variety of vaccine settings, and maintain our connection with all of you. We welcome your questions and comments. Please feel free to share this newsletter with all of your colleagues. Thank you !

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

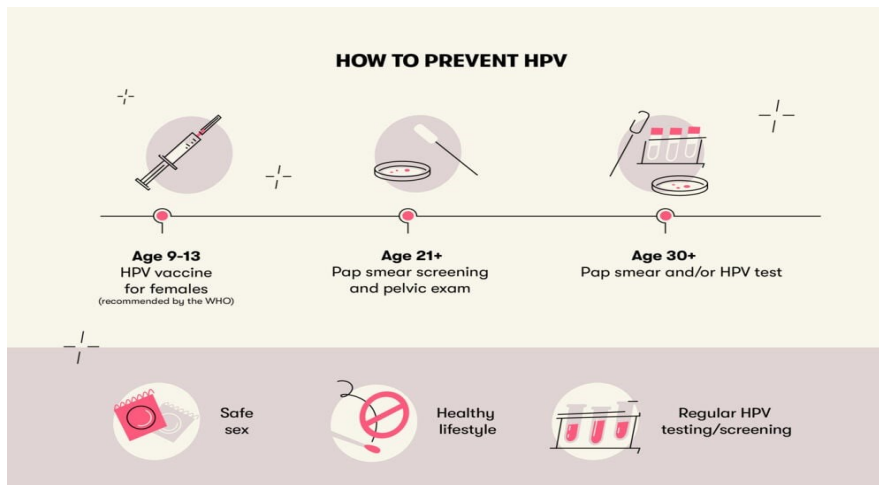
January has been declared Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in the United States. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women worldwide. It is caused by persistent infection with the human papilloma-virus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted infection that can affect the skin, genital area, and throat. Factors that increase the risk of cancer progression include the oncogenicity (cancer-causing potential) of the HPV type, immune status, the presence of other sexually transmitted infections, number of births, age at first pregnancy, hormonal contraceptive use, and smoking.

Preventions

- Being vaccinated at age 9–14 years is a highly effective way to prevent HPV infection, cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers.
- Screening from the age of 30 (25 years in women living with HIV) can detect cervical disease, which when treated, also prevents cervical cancer.
- At any age with symptoms or concerns, early detection followed by prompt quality treatment can cure cervical cancer.



HOW TO PREVENT HPV



Age 9-13
 HPV vaccine for females
(recommended by the WHO)

Age 21+
 Pap smear screening and pelvic exam

Age 30+
 Pap smear and/or HPV test

Safe sex
 Healthy lifestyle
 Regular HPV testing/screening

If you haven't been vaccinated for HPV you should talk to your health care provider to see if vaccination is right for you.

Please reach out to us at Ventura county Public Health— Immunization Program for parent-friendly resource and material.

Inside this issue:

Cervical Cancer 1

Five Ways to Boost 2

Five ways to Boost Vaccination Rates

Implement these practical and proven strategies and increase your HPV vaccination rates

Bundle your recommendation

Bundle your recommendation for all adolescent vaccines, including HPV vaccine, in the same way, on the same day. You can start the vaccine discussion with, “Now that your child is 11, they need three vaccines to help protect against meningitis, HPV cancers, and whooping cough. We’ll give these shots during today’s visit. Do you have any questions about these vaccines

Ensure a consistent message

Your office staff should receive training on how to successfully communicate with parents and patients about HPV vaccination. Starting with the front office, make sure that everyone is on the same page when it comes to proper vaccination practices, recommendations, and how to answer parents’ questions.

Use every opportunity to vaccinate

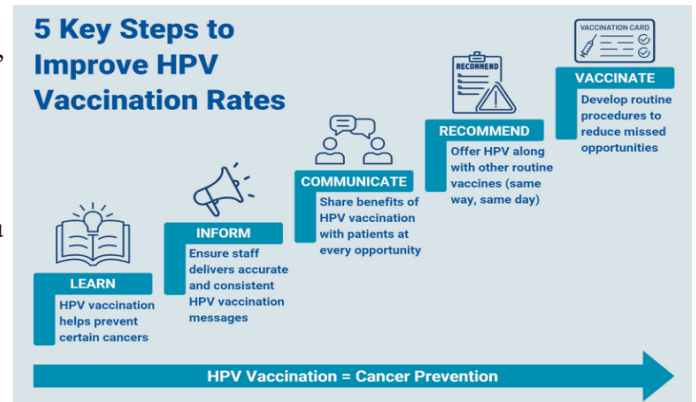
Establish a policy to check patients’ immunization status at every visit and always recommend and administer vaccines your patients need. Call to remind families about getting vaccines if they fall behind or need follow-up doses to complete the series. Develop a process where all clinicians in your practice compare HPV vaccination rates to rates of meningococcal and Tdap vaccination.

Provide personal examples

Providing personal examples of how you support vaccinations for your family members shows you believe they are important. Share how you recommended or administered HPV vaccine for your own children, grandchildren, and other family members. Sharing your personal experience may make parents more comfortable in their decision to vaccinate their child.

Effectively answer questions

Learn how to answer some of parents’ most common questions about HPV vaccination. Be prepared to answer parents’ questions succinctly, accurately, and empathetically by using terms that they understand. A parent will often accept your explanations if presented with their children’s best interests in mind.



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We are on the web!

<https://vchca.org/immunization-program>

or follow us on

