

WHERE AS:

- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccines administered to younger adolescents are safe and provide effective, long-lasting protection from HPV-related cancers. Studies have shown that two doses of HPV vaccine given at least six months apart to adolescents at age 9 to 14 years worked as well or better than three doses given to older adolescents and young adults¹.
- Washington State data show that HPV vaccination completion rates are below the Healthy People 2030 Target of 80%, which means many Washington children may develop cancers that could have been prevented.
- HPV vaccination starting at age 9 is considered best practice by the National HPV Vaccination Round table to increase vaccination completion between age 9-12.
- Clinics that have adopted HPV vaccination at age 9 – 10 have increased on-time HPV vaccination, attaining up to 88% completion by age 13^{2 3}. Local clinics in Washington are having similar success with increased HPV vaccination by starting at age 9.
- Washington’s HPV Free Taskforce (A coalition of health care providers, nurses, school administrators, cancer prevention specialists, community outreach leaders and many others who work in unison to increase on time completion of the HPV vaccine series and decrease HPV-related cancers) encourages starting HPV vaccination at age 9.

THEREFORE, THE WASHINGTON STATE VACCINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS SECRETARY SHAH TO TAKE ACTION PROMPTLY TO:

1. Encourage providers to consider routinely starting HPV vaccination at age 9 years, in accordance with current CDC guidance, and convey this information on all HPV immunization materials including printed and electronic communications issued by the Department of Health (DOH).
2. Change the Washington State Immunization Information System (WAIS) forecasting function so that an HPV vaccination prompt at age 9 alerts providers to start the HPV series and thereby help to extend protection against this cancer-causing viral infection to more Washington youth.
3. Track and publish state and county-level data on HPV vaccination coverage rates for children ages 9-10 annually.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

¹ Meites E, Kempe A, Markowitz LE. Use of a 2-Dose Schedule for Human Papillomavirus Vaccination — Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. *MMWR* 2016;65(49):1405-8

² Casey SM, Jansen E, Drainoni ML, Schuch TJ, Leschly KS, Perkins RB. Long-Term Multilevel Intervention Impact on Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Rates Spanning the COVID-19 Pandemic. *J Low Genit Tract Dis*. 2022 Jan 1;26(1):13-19. PMID: 34928249.

³ Perkins RB, Legler A, Jansen E, Bernstein J, Pierre-Joseph N, Eun TJ, Biancarelli DL, Schuch TJ, Leschly K, Fenton ATHR, Adams WG, Clark JA, Drainoni ML, Hanchate A. Improving HPV Vaccination Rates: A Stepped-Wedge Randomized Trial. *Pediatrics*. 2020 Jul;146(1):e20192737. doi: 10.1542/peds.2019-2737. Epub 2020 Jun 15. PMID: 32540986 Clinical Trial.