



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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January 06, 2020

Dear Provider,

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for the HPV two-dose vaccination series were published in the MMWR in December 2016. I would like to emphasize the **HPV two-dose series can be initiated at age 9 years.**¹

ACIP Recommendations for HPV Vaccination

Age When Starting Series	# of Doses	Schedule/Interval
9 through 14 years	2	0, 6-12 months
9 through 14 and immunocompromised or HIV positive	3	0, 1-2, and 6 months
15 through 45 years ²		

There are several benefits of beginning HPV vaccination for all children at age 9.

- **HPV vaccine may produce a better immune response.** 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 adults.¹
- **More opportunities to vaccinate!** Starting earlier allows you more time and opportunities to finish the two-dose series. If you vaccinate at 9 years of age, you should give them the second dose between 6 and 12 months after the first dose.¹ Even with a skipped annual visit, as long as the first dose is initiated before the 15th birthday, only two doses are needed. In Washington, one dose of Tdap is required for school when the child is age 11 years. This school requirement gives you the opportunity to administer that second HPV dose at age 11.
- **HPV vaccine offers the best protection against HPV infection when administered before exposure to the virus.** According to 2018 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey data, 4 percent of all 8th, 10th, and 12th graders reported having had sexual intercourse by age 13 years.³ About 9 percent of 8th grade students reported having ever had sexual intercourse; whereas, 26 percent of 10th graders and 47 percent of 12th graders have ever had sex.³

Please consider initiating HPV vaccination at age 9 years. Thank you for routinely recommending and administering HPV immunization.

Sincerely,

Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases

¹Meites 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.

²Meites E, Szilagyi PG, Chesson HW, Unger ER, Romero JR, Markowitz LE. Human Papillomavirus Vaccination for Adults: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR 2019;68:698–702.

³Ask Healthy Youth Survey (2018). Healthy Youth Survey Fact Sheet: Sexual Behavior and Orientation for Washington State. Retrieved from <http://www.askhys.net/FactSheets>

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