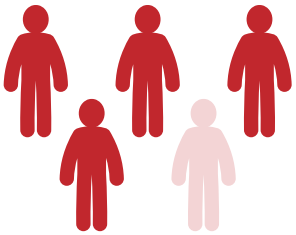
# HPV
## Know the facts

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

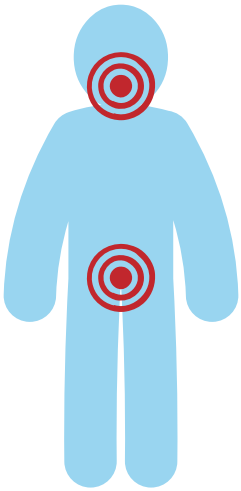
## Human papillomavirus (HPV) is common.



About 4 in 5 people get HPV at some point in their lives.

It spreads easily through skin-to-skin contact, usually sex.

## HPV can cause cancer.



It causes most throat, tongue, and tonsil cancer.

It causes nearly all cervical cancer.

It can also cause penis, vulva, and vagina cancer.

## HPV cancers are preventable.

Vaccine can prevent more than 90% of cancers HPV causes.

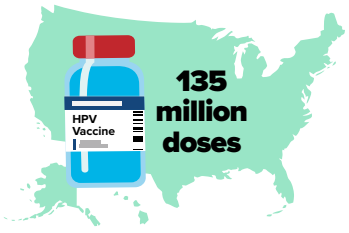
It works best if you get vaccine before you're exposed.

All children 9–12 years old should get HPV vaccine.

## HPV vaccine is safe.

Serious side effects are very rare.

As with all vaccines, HPV vaccine safety is continuously monitored.




People in the United States have received more than 135 million doses of HPV vaccine.

**Learn more at tpchd.org/preventHPV**

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# HPV Vaccine

## Answers to your questions

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

### Is HPV vaccine safe?

All vaccines go through rigorous tests before they're approved. Scientists then continuously monitor safety through multiple systems. People have received hundreds of millions of doses of HPV vaccine worldwide.

### What are the side effects?

Serious side effects, like allergic reaction, are very rare. Common side effects are usually mild and resolve in 1–2 days. These can include pain, redness, swelling at the injection site, fever, headache, nausea, muscle pain, and feeling tired.

### Can HPV vaccine cause fertility issues?

Extensive studies have found no evidence HPV vaccine harms fertility. Instead, it helps prevent cervical cancer and can protect your ability to get pregnant.

### Do other countries recommend HPV vaccine?

More than 75% of countries include HPV vaccine on their immunization schedules. World Health Organization launched an initiative to eliminate cervical cancer worldwide through vaccination. Australia projects it will become one of the first to succeed by 2033.

### Should my child wait to get HPV vaccine?

HPV vaccine is recommended starting at age 9 because:

- The earlier you get it, the stronger the immunity.
- You need it before you're exposed to the virus.
- If you get the first dose before age 15, you only need 2 doses instead of 3.

### Should adults get HPV vaccine?

If you're 19–26 years old, you should get it if you haven't already. If you're 27–45, talk to your healthcare provider. Many cervical cancers are caused by an infection earlier in life—that's why preteens and teens should get it.

### Where can I learn more?

You can find more info and links to helpful resources at **tpchd.org/preventHPV**. You can also talk to your healthcare provider or your child's pediatrician.

### Where can I or my child get HPV vaccine?

At a healthcare provider's office or pharmacy. Find where kids can get free vaccines at **tpchd.org/kidsvax**.

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