

# 5 THINGS A PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT HPV



The more we learn about health risks for our children, the more we can do to help protect them as they grow up. **That's why it's so important to get the facts about human papillomavirus (HPV).**

1

HPV is a little virus that can have **big consequences.**

2

HPV can cause certain **precancers, cancers, and other diseases.**

.....  
These can develop very slowly and may not even occur until later in life.

3

HPV infects **both genders.**

.....  
**Both males and females** can be infected with HPV. Exposure to the virus can happen with any kind of adolescent experimentation that involves genital contact with someone who has HPV — intercourse isn't necessary, but it is the most common way to get the virus.

4

HPV can be spread even when someone with the virus has **no signs or symptoms.**

5

It's important to **talk to your child's doctor** before they are at risk.

.....  
The **CDC and the American Cancer Society** recommend HPV vaccination for girls and boys ages 11–12.

**Being informed** is the first step in helping protect your child.



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# EDUCATION IS THE FIRST STEP IN HELPING TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD AGAINST CERTAIN HPV-RELATED CANCERS AND DISEASES LATER IN LIFE.



APPROXIMATELY  
**14 MILLION PEOPLE**  
will become newly infected each year.

AND ABOUT  
**50% OF NEW INFECTIONS**  
OCCUR IN 15- TO 24-YEAR-OLDS.

FOR MOST PEOPLE, HPV CLEARS ON ITS OWN.  
But, for others who don't clear the virus, it could cause certain precancers, cancers, and other diseases.

Although there are more than 40 genital types of HPV, only certain types cause most

## HPV-RELATED CANCERS AND DISEASES:



ANAL CANCER  
GENITAL WARTS



CERVICAL CANCER  
VULVAR CANCER  
VAGINAL CANCER

## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

- **HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS** is a virus that can cause certain cancers and diseases in both males and females.
- **Exposure to HPV can happen with any kind of adolescent experimentation** that involves genital contact with someone who has HPV — intercourse isn't necessary, but it is the most common way to get the virus.
- Because **HPV often has no visible signs or symptoms**, anyone can get the virus or pass the virus on without even knowing it. And there's no way to predict who will or won't clear the virus.

## WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

Protection starts with knowing the facts. Now that you're armed with more information, talk to your child's doctor.

The **CDC and the American Cancer Society** recommend HPV vaccination for girls and boys ages 11–12.



**~26,100** PEOPLE EACH YEAR  
in the United States are diagnosed with certain  
**HPV-RELATED CANCERS.**

**VIRTUALLY ALL CASES OF CERVICAL CANCER ARE CAUSED BY HPV.**

**EACH YEAR** in the United States,



**~13,200** WOMEN are diagnosed with HPV-related  
**CERVICAL CANCER.**



**EVERY HOUR**, there are an estimated  
**40** NEW CASES of  
**GENITAL WARTS**  
in the United States.



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