

WellSense wants to help you debunk HPV vaccine myths

The CDC recommends the HPV vaccine for boys and girls ages 9-12. The vaccine is crucial in preventing cancers, such as cervical, throat and anal. We want to partner with you to address these myths with evidence-based information and help your patients and our members make informed decisions. **Please feel free to display this information in your offices to ensure patients and their families have the facts they need.**

Myth #1:



The HPV vaccine is unsafe and could cause infertility or cancer.

Fact: The HPV vaccine is safe and effective. It went through rigorous testing and continues to be monitored. The vaccine prevents high-risk HPV types linked to cancer with only mild side effects. There is no credible evidence connecting the vaccine to infertility or cancer.

Myth #2:



The vaccine is only for girls.

Fact: The HPV vaccine is recommended for both boys and girls. HPV causes cancers in both genders, including cancers of the genitals, anus and oral areas. Vaccinating boys reduces HPV transmission and helps prevent cancers. The vaccine is most effective when administered before sexual activity, typically between ages 9-12.

Myth #3:



Vaccination can wait until late teens, after sexual activity.

Fact: The HPV vaccine is most effective when given before sexual activity, ideally between ages 9-12. Early vaccination ensures a stronger immune response. Delaying vaccination reduces its effectiveness if the person has already been exposed to the virus.

Myth #4:



If a child missed the vaccine as a teenager, it's too late.

Fact: The vaccine can still help stop new HPV infections and cancers, even if you get it as an adult. The CDC recommends the HPV vaccine through age 26.

Myth #5:



There's no need to get the vaccine because HPV does not cause cancer.

Fact: Extensive research shows a direct link between HPV and several cancers, including cervical, anal and throat cancers. Certain high-risk HPV types are strongly associated with cancer development.