

Test Your Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Knowledge

The HPV vaccine is critical to protecting the next generation against cancers caused by HPV infections. Do you know the answers to these questions? Be informed, test your knowledge!

1. The HPV vaccine is cancer prevention. It protects against HPV viruses that commonly cause which of the following cancers?
a) cervical d) anal
b) vaginal e) cancers of the back of the throat
c) penile f) all of the above
2. True or False
The HPV vaccine is recommended for teenage girls and boys at the age they begin sexual activity.
3. True or False
The HPV vaccine is given in a series of two or three shots over a period of months, depending on the age of the child at the time of the first shot.
4. True or False
According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), most people are not aware that about 81% of HPV-caused throat cancers occur in males.
5. True or False
The HPV vaccine was first recommended in 2006. By 2010, the number of HPV infections among teenage girls in the U.S. dropped by more than half.

See the correct answers on the other side 



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Correct Answers

1. f) all of the above

According to the CDC, every year in the U.S., more than 30,000 females and males get cancer caused by HPV. That's one person every 18 minutes of every day. Most of these cancers could be prevented by the HPV vaccine.

2. False

The HPV vaccination is recommended for preteen girls and boys, ages 11–12, to protect against cancer-causing HPV infections before they are exposed to the virus. The HPV vaccination provides the best protection when given at the recommended ages.

3. True

The CDC now recommends two doses of HPV vaccine for people starting the vaccination series *before* their 15th birthday. Three doses of HPV vaccine are recommended for people starting the series on or after their 15th birthday, and for people with certain health conditions. The CDC continues to recommend routine vaccination for girls and boys at age 11 or 12, but the series can be started as early as nine years of age.

4. True

Some have estimated that by the year 2020, more men will be dying from HPV-caused cancers than women.

5. True

Fewer young women are being diagnosed with cervical precancer caused by HPV infections. Every year in the U.S., thousands of women need testing and treatment for HPV-related changes in the cells of the cervix. Testing and treatment for these precancers can cause lasting problems that can lead to premature births, and even some forms of infertility. HPV vaccination protects against the types of the HPV virus that can cause the majority of cervical cancers and precancers.



Speak with your doctor about the HPV virus and vaccine, or visit [cdc.gov/hpv](https://www.cdc.gov/hpv) for more information.