

# HPV Vaccination Myths



## HPV Vaccine Myth Buster

“Hecel Oyate Kin Nipi Kte”-  
“So That the People May Live”



**HPV vaccinations are unsafe.**

Most vaccines contain small amounts of things like aluminum. This increases the strength of the vaccine. The amount of aluminum in the HPV vaccine is safe. Infants consume more aluminum through breast milk or formula than is found in the HPV vaccine.<sup>1</sup>

Out of 90 million delivered doses only .00003% of recipients have reported side effects. Most of these reports were for mild side effects. Since then, providers have started to follow guidelines that reduce the chances of harm from these reported side effects.<sup>2</sup>

Some individuals are concerned that this vaccine causes infertility. There is no evidence to support a link between this vaccine and infertility. HPV related cancers and their treatment can cause infertility. For example, removal of internal reproductive organs in order to remove cancers.<sup>3</sup>

**9 in 10**

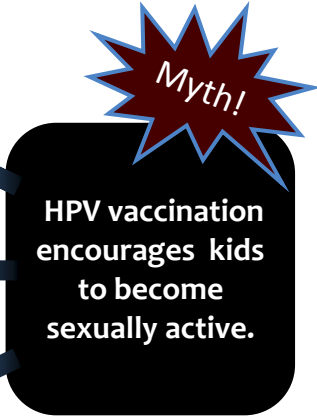
People will get HPV in their lifetime



Preteens should receive the HPV vaccination starting at 11 or 12 years old. Beginning the vaccine at this age gives your child time to build an immune response before coming into contact with the virus.<sup>4</sup> The vaccination is 2-3 times more effective when given at this age.<sup>2</sup>

At ages 11 and 12 your child's immune system is more responsive to the HPV vaccine. As a result your child may only need to receive two doses of the HPV vaccine, if they are in good health. This allows for lower costs<sup>5</sup> and fewer trips to a clinic or doctor's office.<sup>4</sup>

Researchers studied rates of STDs, pregnancy, & birth control counseling in vaccinated adolescents and found no increase in vaccinated versus unvaccinated adolescents. This lack of increase shows that the HPV vaccine does not result in higher rates of sexual activity among vaccinated adolescents.<sup>6</sup>



**HPV vaccination encourages kids to become sexually active.**

Sources

1. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 2. South Dakota Department of Health, 3. American Sexual Health Association, 4. Centers for Disease Control, 5. World Health Organization, 6. Kasting, Monica L., et al. "Tempest in a teapot: A systematic review of HPV vaccination and risk compensation research." Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics, Taylor & Francis, June 2016, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4964724/. 7. National Cancer Institute.

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HPV related cancers are just a women's issue

HPV plays a role in the development of 7 different types of cancer. 3 of these affect men (head/neck/oral, penile, and anal/rectal cancers). Boys ages 11-12 should get vaccinated. Head/Neck/Oral cancers are on the rise among men. 70% of head/neck/oral cancers are related to HPV. <sup>1</sup>

Every year 11,000 men are diagnosed with HPV related cancers. There is no clinically approved HPV test for men. The HPV vaccine is cancer prevention in both girls and boys. <sup>4</sup> As well as the only way to prevent HPV related cancer in men.

HPV infection is extremely common and almost unavoidable, like a common cold. You can protect your child long before they need to worry about this aspect of their health. There are 12 high-risk types of HPV. Vaccination protects your child against the most common cancer causing types of HPV and reduces their risk of HPV related cancers. <sup>7</sup>

39,800 people every year are diagnosed with an HPV related cancer. <sup>4</sup> HPV vaccinations can prevent approximately 90% of these diagnoses. <sup>6</sup> HPV vaccination can save lives.



HPV related cancers are not common, so the vaccine isn't worth it.

Call your state VFC Program

**ND** 1-800-472-2180

**SD** 1-800-592-1861

**NE** 402-471-6423

**IA** 1-800-831-6293

## Getting Vaccinated

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program offers vaccines at no cost for eligible children through doctors enrolled in the program. Vaccinating on time means healthier children, families and communities.

Children under 19 years of age that meet one of the following requirements: Medicaid-eligible, Uninsured, American Indian or Alaska Native are eligible for the VFC program.

Visit this web page to find out if your child qualifies

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/contacts-state.html>

