

Do you have health questions?

Call our 24-hour Nurse Advice Line.

We are here to help you.



English:
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Your Extended Family

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)



Your Extended Family

What is Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?

(pronounced: pap-ah-LO-mah-VYE-rus)

HPV is a sexually transmitted virus. You can get HPV from vaginal, anal and oral sex. HPV affects both men and women.

What are the symptoms of HPV?

There are often no symptoms. Most people who have HPV do not know they have it. HPV can cause genital warts and infection. HPV can lead to cervical cancer. It can cause anal, mouth or throat cancer in both men and women.

How can you lower your risk of getting HPV?

- Get the HPV vaccine. It will protect you from diseases caused by HPV. The vaccine consists of a series of three shots.
- If you are a female, get an HPV test. This test checks for the HPV virus that can cause the cells in your cervix to change. Unhealthy cells can turn into cancer.
- If you are sexually active:
 - Always use latex condoms correctly during sex.
 - Limit the number of your sex partners. It is best to only have sex with someone who is only having sex with you.

Who should get the HPV vaccine?

All boys and girls 11 or 12 years of age should get the vaccine. This will protect them before they are in contact with the virus.

If you are between 13 and 26 years of age and have not had any or all of the HPV shots, ask your provider about getting them now.

