



CDPHE Health Services Connection Branch (HSCB) Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) Provider Resources

May 2019

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a group of more than 150 viruses. In the United States, approximately one in four people have it at any given time. HPV usually does not cause symptoms. Some HPV infections do not go away and can lead to several different types of HPV-related cancers. HPV is the cause of nearly 35,000 cancers in men and women, including cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal, rectal, throat, tongue, and tonsil cancer. The HPV vaccine can prevent nearly 90 percent or 32,000 of these cancer cases. An estimated 592 HPV-associated cancers were reported in Colorado each year during 2011-2015. Of these, 78 percent were caused by HPV and 93 percent could have been prevented with the HPV vaccine (CDC, May 2019).

HPV vaccine rates continue to lag behind other vaccines. Only half of U.S. adolescents are up to date on the series. In Colorado, the estimated rate of HPV completion among adolescent females ages 13-17 is 59 percent (CDC, May 2019). The HPV vaccine is most effective during adolescence, when the body produces more antibodies against the virus. The recommended age to start the HPV vaccine is 11-12 for both male and female adolescents. Preteens and teens between the ages of 9-14 need two doses of the HPV vaccine. For those between the ages of 15-45 the recommended dose is a series of three injections.

Healthcare providers play an important role in whether parents choose to get their children vaccinated. The resources below are intended to assist healthcare providers in counseling parents of adolescents about the importance of adolescent HPV vaccination, and locating clinics that provide low to no-cost HPV vaccine or vaccine reimbursement assistance.

*40 percent of private insurers in Colorado reimburse for HPV vaccination up to age 45. This is much higher than in most other states.
*Colorado Medicaid covers 100% of clients from ages 9-999.

Provider Resources

- [CDPHE School-required vaccine information](#)
- [CDPHE Immunization reports and data](#)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) list of [recommended vaccinations](#) and CDC information for [parents](#).
- National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO) provides graphics and social media posts to highlight the importance of the HPV vaccine are included in the [HPV Vaccine Promotional Toolkit](#). Posts focus on assisting parents and adults in sharing HPV vaccine information.
- Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) list of [online tools](#) helps families keep track of which vaccines their teen has or has not received.
- [Section 317](#) of the Public Health Service Act authorizes the purchase of HPV vaccine for underinsured and uninsured clients. Billing and coding information for 317 vaccine can be found [here](#).
- The [Vaccine Finder](#) assists users in locating clinics and pharmacies that offer HPV vaccination, including Title X Family Planning clinics. Vaccine Finder is a free, online service where users can search for locations near them that offer immunizations.
- [Title X Family Planning Clinic Locator database](#) is a database that includes Title X clinics offering the complete HPV vaccination series.
- The CDC provides vaccines at no cost to eligible families through the [Vaccines For Children program](#) (VCF). Visit the [Q&A page](#) for more information. Any teen (18 years and under) without insurance qualifies for the 9-valent HPV series at no-cost. They cannot be turned away for inability to pay.
- Merck Access Program for Gardasil 9 can be found [here](#). Merck's financial assistance program is for clients over 19 years old. The client pays their copay and then the public health agency submits the reimbursement form to Merck prior to injection to allow for no-cost HPV vaccination. Billing and coding information can be found [here](#).
- Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition's [Alliance for HPV Free Colorado](#) (#HPVFreeCO) provides Colorado specific HPV information for parents and providers. Access to educational trainings through the Alliance can be found [here](#) or by contacting Nicole.Steffens@dhha.org.