

# MAINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM



## “START AT 9” HPV TOOLKIT FOR PROVIDERS



# TOOLKIT OVERVIEW

“Start at 9” is a campaign aimed at increasing on-time vaccination rates for the HPV vaccine series across Maine. The latest research suggests that starting the HPV vaccination series at age 9 can increase the percentage of patients that are up to date by age 13. Many other states have already adopted this campaign; as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Cancer Society, and the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable, all of which endorse starting the series at age nine and are in alignment with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendation.

Unfortunately, **less than 30% of 13-year-old adolescents in Maine have completed their HPV vaccine series**, leaving most of this age group unprotected from future HPV cancers. MIP encourages the “Start at 9” approach to give both parents and providers more time to complete the series within the ACIP time frame of 9 to 12 years of age.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination is most effective when given in early adolescence before any exposure to HPV. **HPV vaccine can be given starting at age 9.** Implementing HPV vaccination at the earliest opportunity not only produces a strong immune response, but also increases the percentage of patients that are up to date by age 13. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Cancer Society, and the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable also recommend starting the series at age 9. This strategy is consistent with the ACIP recommendation, stating the HPV series can start at age 9.

Other reasons for starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9 include:

- Provides more time for completion of the series.
- Decreases concerns about the vaccine increasing sexual activity.
- Decreases requests for only the “school-required vaccines.”
- Increases the likelihood of full vaccination before first HPV exposure.
- Is highly acceptable to systems, providers, and parents.

Nationally, one in five vaccinating providers already administer the HPV vaccine at age nine and half are willing to recommend starting the series at this age. We encourage you to consider

beginning the vaccine series at nine to improve vaccination rates and protect the health of young Mainers.

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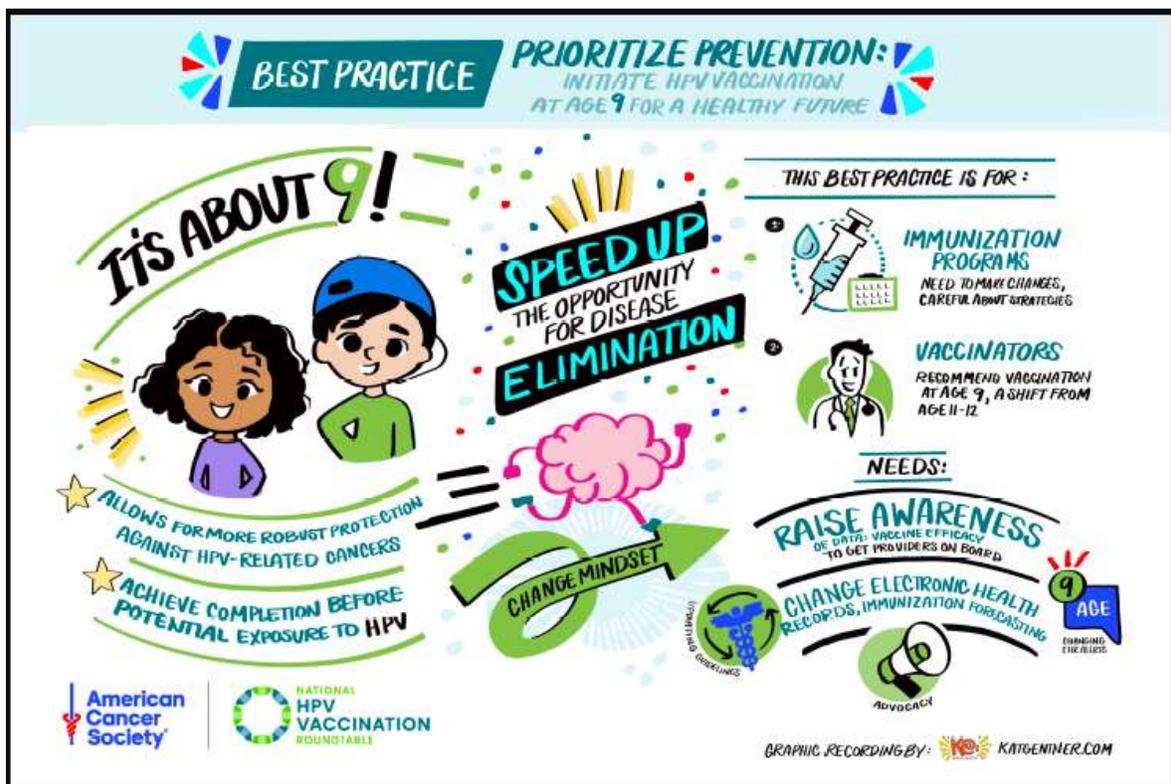
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# TOOLKIT OBJECTIVES

1. Raise awareness for parents, guardians and health care providers around vaccinating children with the HPV vaccination starting at age 9.
2. Educate parents and guardians of preteens and teens around the cancer prevention benefits of the HPV vaccine.
3. Improve adolescent vaccination rates for the HPV vaccine 2-dose series.
4. Communicate the importance of improving immunization completion rates for the HPV vaccine 2-dose series starting at age 9.
5. Provide communication tools for public health professionals, immunization programs and immunization providers to improve awareness and knowledge of the HPV vaccine.

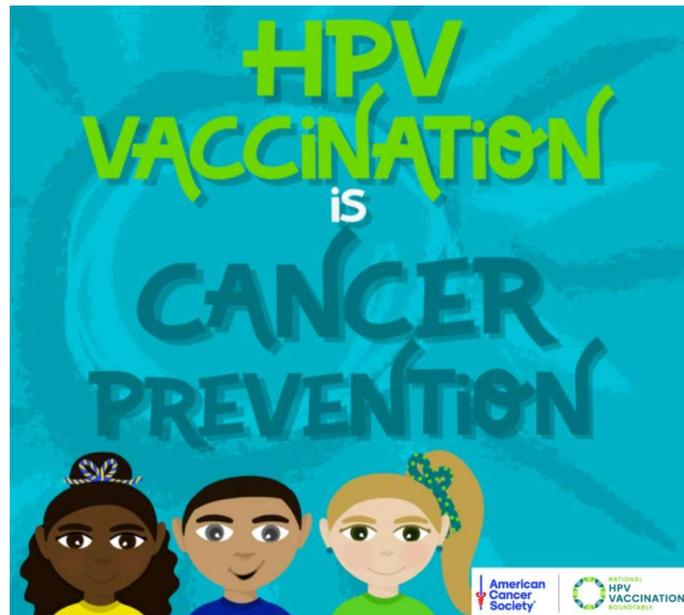
# TARGET AUDIENCE

1. Parents/guardians of preteen and teen boys and girls aged 9-12-year-old.
2. Health care providers for preteen and teen boys and girls.
3. Preteens and teens.
4. Community Partners promoting immunization.



# HPV TALKING POINTS

- HPV vaccination is important because it prevents infections that can cause cancer. That is why we need to start the shot series today.
- Some HPV infections can cause cancer—like cancer of the cervix or in the back of the throat—but we can protect your child from these cancers in the future by getting the first HPV shot today.
- Studies continue to prove HPV vaccination works extremely well, decreasing the number of infections and HPV precancers in people who have been vaccinated.
- Vaccines protect your child before they are exposed to an infection. That’s why we give HPV vaccination earlier rather than later, to protect them long before they are ever exposed. Also, if your child gets the shot now (before they turn 15), they will only need two doses. If you wait until your child is older, they will end up needing three doses.



# QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS

Quality improvement actions in your practice can lead to increases in HPV vaccination coverage. Giving a strong recommendation for HPV vaccination at age 9 will increase vaccine completion success and prevent more cancers.

- **Reminder/Recall**

An important component of an immunization provider practice is ensuring that vaccines reach all individuals who need them. Reminder/Recall systems are tools that help providers ensure that the recommended vaccinations are being offered to every eligible person at the recommended age.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/php/outreach-to-clinicians/index.html>

- **Quality Improvement Projects Targeting Immunization**

This page provides resources for clinicians who are seeking immunization quality improvement and/or maintenance of certification projects.

- [https://www.cdc.gov/iqip/hcp/strategies/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/quality-improvement-proj.html](https://www.cdc.gov/iqip/hcp/strategies/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/quality-improvement-proj.html)

- **5 ways to Boost Your HPV Vaccination Rates**

Implement these practical and proven strategies to increase your HPV vaccination rates.

- [https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/vaccination-considerations/boost-rates.html?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/boosting-vacc-rates.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/vaccination-considerations/boost-rates.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/boosting-vacc-rates.html)

- **The Announcement Approach for Increasing HPV Vaccination**

Take these steps to more effectively recommend HPV vaccination. The “Announcement Approach” will save you time and improve patient satisfaction.

- <https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/3-Flyer-required-AAT-2024-final.pdf>

- Don't miss the opportunity to initiate HPV vaccination at age 9 or complete the vaccination series before age 15.

 <h3>Check the chart</h3> <p>Identify existing care gaps using Immunization Information Systems (IIS) and Electronic Health Records (EHR)<sup>1</sup></p>	 <h3>Improve the processes</h3> <p>Use standing orders, vaccinate at all appropriate visits, and schedule their next appointment (well visit, vaccination-only visit) before the patient leaves<sup>1</sup></p>
 <h3>Prepare the care team</h3> <p>Educate anyone administering vaccines about vaccination principles, scheduling, safety and effectiveness, and proper administration techniques<sup>1</sup></p>	 <h3>Remind parents</h3> <p>Implement notifications via letters, emails, and texts to remind parents about upcoming appointments<sup>1</sup></p>

➤ <https://www.merckvaccines.com/gardasil9/dosing-administration>

# RESOURCES FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

## The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that kids get the HPV vaccine starting at age 9:

Pre-teens produce more antibodies after HPV vaccination than older teens. Vaccination at a younger age can also protect kids before they are exposed to the virus. Use these social media graphics, videos and other resources to share information with families about HPV and how the vaccine gets kids' immune systems ready to resist the virus so they can live healthy lives.

- [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) \(aap.org\)](https://www.aap.org)

**Outreach to Clinicians:** Clinicians often want to improve their HPV vaccination rates but may need help in knowing where to start. This page summarizes resources that can help clinicians understand the HPV vaccination landscape and find information on the different ways they can work with trusted partners.

- **Understanding HPV Coverage**
- **Quality Improvement**
- **Clinician Resources**

- [https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/php/outreach-to-clinicians/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/partners/outreach-hcp/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/php/outreach-to-clinicians/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/partners/outreach-hcp/index.html)

**Quality Improvement Projects:** Learn about the different evidence-based quality improvement projects you can implement in your practice.

- [https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/php/outreach-to-clinicians/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/partners/outreach-hcp/quality-improvement.html#cdc\\_listing\\_res2-quality-improvement-projects-targeting-immunization](https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/php/outreach-to-clinicians/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/partners/outreach-hcp/quality-improvement.html#cdc_listing_res2-quality-improvement-projects-targeting-immunization)

## Ask the Experts: HPV (Human Papillomavirus)

- Vaccine or Disease Name
- Patient Health Conditions
- Work, School or Living Setting
- Adverse Events
- Vaccine Storage and Handling
- Patient Age
- Patient Population
- Disease
- Schedule
- Patient Sex
- Other

- <https://www.immunize.org/ask-experts/topic/hpv/>

**New Research Reinforces the Recommendation to Start Offering HPV Vaccines at Age 9:** Read NEW evidence, recently published, on the impact of initiating HPV vaccination at ages 9, including population studies, quality improvement projects, brief reports, and commentaries from experts in the field. The collection of published articles shows the benefits, effectiveness, and acceptability of routinely recommending HPV vaccination for all preteens starting at age 9.

- <https://hpvroundtable.org/start-hpv-vaccination-at-age-9/>

**Steps for Increasing HPV Vaccination in Practice:** The HPV vaccine is cancer prevention and helps prevent infection from virus types that cause most of these cancers and precancers. That’s why the American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that boys and girls get vaccinated against HPV starting at age 9.

- <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/steps-for-increasing-hpv-vaccination-in-practice.pdf>

**HPV Vaccination Action Guides:** Every health care professional plays an important role in increasing HPV vaccination rates. The ACS National HPV Vaccination Roundtable developed a suite of Clinician & System Action Guides to encourage providers, support teams, and health systems to act today.

- <https://hpvroundtable.org/cancer-prevention-through-hpv-vaccination-action-guides/>



# FACT SHEETS

## HPV VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hpv.html>

## HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- <https://media.chop.edu/data/files/pdfs/vaccine-education-center-hpv.pdf>

## A PARENT'S GUIDE TO PRETEEN AND TEEN HPV VACCINATION

- <https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/catg.d/p4250.pdf>

## HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV): QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- <https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/catg.d/p4207.pdf>

## HPV IS MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK

- [https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AdolesGuide\\_HP\\_V\\_family.pdf](https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AdolesGuide_HP_V_family.pdf)

## JUST THE FACTS: HPV VACS

- <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/hpv-vacs-just-the-facts-for-providers.pdf>

## HPV VACCINE SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/downloads/teens/vaccine-safety.pdf>

## CANCER PREVENTION THROUGH HPV VACCINATION

- [https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/One-Pager-Handout\\_Providers-1.pdf](https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/One-Pager-Handout_Providers-1.pdf)

## HPV: TALKING POINTS

- <https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AdolesGuide HPV.pdf>

## HPV VACCINATION STARTS AT AGE 9: CORE MESSAGES

- <https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/HPV-RT-2022-Starts-at-9-Core-Message-2022-08.01-8.pdf>

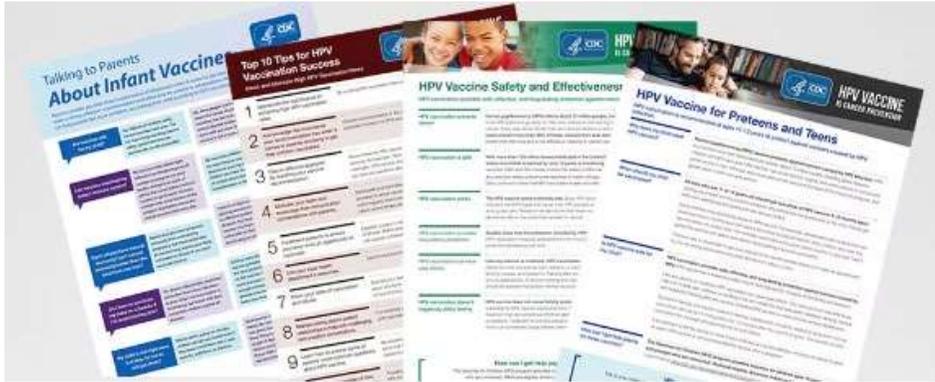
## WHY AGE 9? FACT SHEET

- [https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/HPV\\_Roundtable-HPV\\_Why\\_Age\\_9\\_Sales\\_Sheet\\_WEB.pdf](https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/HPV_Roundtable-HPV_Why_Age_9_Sales_Sheet_WEB.pdf)



<https://hpvroundtable.org/>

# EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



Providing educational resources to parents will help them understand the importance of vaccinating their children and answer many of their questions about vaccination and reinforce your recommendation.

CDC's educational resources can help educate you and your office staff on the latest information and guidance on HPV vaccination, best practices for communicating with parents and patients, and tips for boosting your vaccination rates. Sharing these resources with office staff also helps ensure a consistent message to parents and patients about the importance of HPV vaccination.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/php/outreach-to-parents>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/educational-resources/>
- <https://hpvroundtable.org/resource-center/>

# POSTERS/FLYERS

## HPV Vaccination: Just the Facts

- <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/hpv-vaccination-just-the-facts-for-parents.pdf>

## Protecting Our Children from HPV Cancers

- <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/protecting-our-children-from-hpv-cancers.pdf>



## Don't Wait to Vaccinate

- <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/hpv-dont-wait-to-vaccinate.pdf>

## Take a Shot at Cancer

- <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/hpv-take-a-shot-at-cancer.pdf>

# VIDEO/PODCASTS/PSAS/SOCIAL MEDIA

## VIDEO AND AUDIO RESOURCES

New Research Reinforces the Recommendation to Start Offering HPV Vaccines at Age Nine. Watch Video Abstracts Highlighting Key Articles

- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpB8X9MugZYZvEtLSPT8UTXFC3c1S-Ilg>

HPV Best Practices Series: The Announcement Approach Training

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYrTrYot\\_6c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYrTrYot_6c)

## RECOMMENDED WEB LINKS:

Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic

- <https://www.hpvepidemic.com/>

HPV Vaccinations: 9 Benefits of Starting at Age

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCpNJ1Rv9YQ>

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- <https://hpvroundtable.org/resource-center/?type=25>
- <https://www.nfid.org/resource/hpv-social-media-graphics/>
- <https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/human-papillomavirus-hpv/>
- <https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/human-papillomavirus-hpv/hpv-vaccine-reminders-sample-social-media-messages/>

# TRANSLATIONS

## Some HPV materials are available in:

- Spanish
- Arabic
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- French
- Somali
- Vietnamese
- Korean
- Arabic

➤ <https://www.immunize.org/vaccines/vis/hpv/#Current-Translations>

➤ <https://medlineplus.gov/languages/hpv.html>

If you have any questions, please contact the  
Maine Immunization Program at:  
(207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775  
[ImmunizeME.DHHS@maine.gov](mailto:ImmunizeME.DHHS@maine.gov)

