

New Two-dose Regimen for HPV Vaccine

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommend that 11-12-year olds receive two doses of [human papillomavirus](#) (HPV) vaccine 6-12 months apart. The [new recommendation](#) makes it easier for parents to protect their children by reducing the number of doctor visits needed to complete the series.

The new recommendation in detail

- Routine HPV vaccination continues to be recommended at ages 11-12 years, but may be given starting at 9 years.
- Use a two-dose HPV vaccination schedule for adolescents starting the series at ages 9-14 years. The second dose should be administered 6-12 months after the first dose. (0, 6-12 months)
 - The minimum interval for the two-dose schedule is 5 months.
- Adolescents ages 9-14 years who already received two doses of HPV vaccine less than 5 months apart will require a third dose.
- Continue to use the three-dose HPV vaccination schedule (0, 1-2, 6 months) for those who are
 - Starting the series at ages 15-26 years, or
 - Immunocompromised ages 9-26 years.*
- There is no maximum interval between doses.

The evidence behind the recommendation

The ACIP made this recommendation after a thorough review of data from clinical trials ([Romanowski](#), [Dobson](#), [Puthanakit](#), [Lazcano-Ponce](#), [Hernández-Ávila](#), [Merck](#)) showing two doses of HPV vaccine in younger adolescents (aged 9-14 years) produced an immune response similar or higher than the response in young adults (aged 16-26 years) who received three doses. Study data suggest long-lasting protection when younger adolescents receive two doses of HPV vaccine and when older adolescents receive three doses.

Explaining the new recommendation to parents

- Continue to bundle your recommendation for HPV vaccine along with the other routinely recommended vaccines.
 - “Now that your child is 11 (or 12) years old, they are due for three vaccines today to help protect them from meningitis, HPV-related cancers, and whooping cough.”
- For parents who ask “Why now/why at 11 or 12?”:
 - “Like with all vaccine-preventable diseases, we want to protect your child early. If we start now, it’s one less thing for you to worry about. Also, your child will only need two doses of HPV vaccine at this age. If you wait, your child may need three doses in order to get complete protection.”
- For parents who ask “How long can we wait and still give just two doses?”:
 - “The two-dose schedule is recommended if the series is started before the 15th birthday. However, I don’t recommend waiting to give this cancer-preventing vaccine. As children get older and have busier schedules, it becomes more difficult to get them back in. I’d feel best if we started the series today to get them protected as soon as possible.”

For more information:

Watch the archived CDC presentation “Recommendations for HPV Vaccination: 2016 Update” at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/2016-10-26.html>.

See CDC’s tipsheet “Addressing Parents’ Top Questions about HPV Vaccine” at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/for-hcp-tipsheet-hpv.pdf>.

Go to CDC’s preteen vaccines website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/>.

*See MMWR for additional details. (Publication expected December 2016.)