

Recommend HPV Vaccination Starting at Age 9 - A Proven Strategy for Cancer Prevention

Dear Healthcare Provider,

As trusted advocates for children's health, your voice carries immense influence in protecting Michigan's youth from preventable diseases. We urge you to confidently recommend and administer the HPV vaccine to all boys and girls starting at age 9.

Leading health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Cancer Society (ACS), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the American Dental Association (ADA), recommend initiating HPV vaccination between ages 9 and 12.

Starting at age 9 offers several compelling advantages:

- **Higher Completion Rates:** Kids starting at 9–10 are twice as likely to finish the series by age 13 (74% vs. 31%).
- **A stronger immune response:** Younger kids have a stronger, longer-lasting immune response.
- **Powerful cancer prevention:** HPV causes over 600,000 cancer cases and 300,000 deaths globally each year. Over 90% of cervical cancers and around 70% of oropharyngeal cancers are preventable with vaccination.

Only 44.3% of Michigan teens (13–17) have completed the HPV series—well below the national average of 62.9%. Completion rates lag far behind other adolescent vaccines.

These gaps represent missed opportunities to prevent cancer. Early initiation at age 9 can help to close them.

We urge you to make a confident, routine recommendation for HPV vaccination at every well-child visit starting at age 9. Your trusted guidance can dramatically increase vaccine uptake and protect children from preventable cancers for life.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing preventive care and public health.

Sincerely,
Michigan HPV Cancer Prevention Alliance

