

# HPV Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions: What Parents Need to Know

## What is HPV?

There are at least 120 strains of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). All warts are caused by HPV. Only a few types however cause more serious health problems including cervical dysplasia and cervicitis in women and various cancers in men and women.

Almost every person will acquire an HPV infection at some time in their life. Approximately 79 million Americans acquire genital HPV with 14 million teens and young adults becoming newly infected annually. Every year 19,200 women and 11,600 men are diagnosed with a cancer caused by HPV.

Gardasil (HPV) vaccine has been licensed in the US since 2006 and in other parts of the world for ten years prior. Over 100,000,000 doses have been given since that time. A single series of Gardasil has been shown to provide long-term protection with no evidence of protection decay over time. There is no evidence that the vaccine is beneficial after acquiring HPV, which is why it is important to immunize your child earlier in life.

## Is the HPV vaccine safe?

**Yes!** The HPV vaccines underwent rigorous testing with a total of 74,000 patients before being approved for use in patients. Since its approval, safety monitoring by the CDC and FDA of the 100,000,000 doses administered have continued to show safety equivalent to or better than other vaccines. The only exception, is **your child may pass out in the first 15 minutes after the vaccine.**

## What are known side effects of the HPV vaccine?

**Pain, redness and swelling of the arm, fever, headache, fatigue, nausea, muscle and joint pain.** In rare instances, a person can have a severe reaction to a vaccine, including an allergic reaction. Anything you put in your body can have side effects or potentially cause a severe reaction.

## How are vaccines monitored for possible safety problems?

Vaccines first must undergo years of testing to prove they are safe and effective, before they are approved for you by the FDA. After approval, both the CDC and FDA continue to monitor for any problems. The CDC uses 3 methods: the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), and the Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment Network (CISA).

## Who can report adverse events to VAERS?

**Anyone!** They take reports from vaccine manufacturers, healthcare professionals and the public. This includes someone calling to say “My neighbor’s, cousin’s god daughter had a classmate that died after getting the HPV vaccine.”

## I have read about many side effects including that people have died from the vaccine.

### What is the real story?

This is an example of misleading reports. Over 100,000,000 doses of HPV have been given in the US since 2006. Between release of the vaccine and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, The CDC, VAERS, and VSD received 137 reports of death. 71 of those reports could not be linked to any actual death (remember the neighbor’s, cousin’s, god daughter’s classmate? She didn’t exist). This leaves 53 people who have died in the months after. Their medical records, autopsies, and causes of death, were reviewed. It was determined that there was no pattern that would support the vaccine causing those deaths. **There was no relationship between the deaths and the vaccine.**

## How did those people die?

**In the majority of cases patients died from other, identifiable causes.** The causes include accidents, homicide and suicide. As well as patient's who died from underlying chronic medical conditions, both previously known and unknown. After all these reports, in 2 cases, the evidence was unable to determine if the vaccine did or did not cause the death. That's 2 cases, out of 100 million vaccines, that *might* have been caused by the vaccine.

## What about those kids whose pictures I've seen on Facebook?

Those pictures are scary. They could also be of any child, who has been hospitalized for any reason. Several of **these stories have been proven to be of children who have died from known causes**, and, following their illness or death, have been used by certain groups to push an agenda that is unrelated to their actual illness or death. They are being circulated by groups who are known to be anti-vaccine (VAXXED), anti-science, and opposed to protecting children from STDs and teen pregnancy (ACOP).

## What about that post on Facebook saying 32 women have died from HPV?

That's the raw reports, including the neighbor's cousin's whatever. **None of those could be linked to the vaccine. No significant adverse event that has been reported has a higher incidence than the general background incidence in the population as a whole.**

## Let's put that into perspective:

Chances of getting HPV disease million	1 in 1.67 or 30 million in 50
Chances of persistent HPV disease millin	1 in 16.67 3 million in 50
Chances of developing cervical cancer 50,000,000	1 in 161 or 310,000 in
Chances of dying from cervical cancer 50,000,000	1 in 455 or 110,000 in
Chances of being struck by lightning 50,000,000	1 in 6250 or 8000 in
Chance of dying from food allergy 50,000,000	1 in 552,486 or 90 in
Chances of being attacked by a shark 50,000,000	1 in 3,748,067 or 13 in
Chances of dying ( <b>maybe</b> ) from HPV vaccine	1 in 50,000,000

## Should my child get the HPV vaccine?

**All of our providers recommend HPV vaccination.** The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Center for Disease Control, and World health Organization ALL recommend HPV vaccination. Their most recent recommendation is **to begin vaccination at 11 to 12 years of age in boys and girls.**

Have questions?

**Please ask your doctor or practitioner!!** We love to answer them for you.

Want to Read More on This?

Really?!?! You're my kind of parent!! Have at it:

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-basics/lifetime-probability-of-developing-or-dying-from-cancer.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaccines/hpv/hpv-safety-faqs.html#A13>

<https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/index.html>

<http://www.contagionlive.com/news/who-releases-hpv-vaccine-recommendations>

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/girl-dies-gardasil-hpv-vaccine/>

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/on-gardasil/>