

HPV- Human Papillomavirus

HPV is common. About 14 million Americans, including teens, become infected with HPV each year. While most HPV infections will go away on their own, infections that don't go away can cause certain types of cancer in men and women. HPV can cause:

- Cancers of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in women
- Cancers of the penis in men
- Cancers of the anus and the back of the throat (including the base of the tongue and tonsils) in men and women

HPV vaccination can prevent over 90% (31,200) of these cancers from ever developing by preventing the infections that cause those cancers.

All kids who are 11-12 years old should get 2 shots of HPV vaccine 6-12 months apart. Also, children who start the HPV vaccine series on or after their 15th birthday, need 3 shots given over 6 months. If your teen hasn't gotten the vaccine yet, get it as soon as possible. HPV vaccine can be given to young adults up to age 26.

Jackson County Health Department has qualified staff available to answer any questions parents may have about the HPV vaccine. Parents may call 618-684-3143 ext 150 Monday-Friday 8-4 or come to the walk in immunization clinic Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Tuesday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

For more information from the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/>