

## HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)

**Human papillomavirus (pap-uh-LOH-muh-veye-ruhss) includes more than 100 different viruses. Some kinds of HPV can cause cervical cancer or genital warts. Many types of HPV can be passed through sexual contact.**

- Some types of HPV can cause changes on a woman's cervix that may lead to cervical cancer. Treatments for these changes may prevent cervical cancer, but the HPV virus may remain.
- Some kinds of HPV can cause genital warts that grow inside and around the vagina and elsewhere. The warts can appear even years after sexual contact with an infected person. Genital warts can be treated, but they may come back.
- Over half of sexually active people will have HPV at some point. Most people don't know they have it, though, because it may not cause symptoms.
- Most often, HPV is passed during vaginal or anal sex. However, it is possible to pass HPV during oral sex or hand-to-genital contact.
- Using condoms can lower your risk of HPV. You will be safest, though, if you don't have sex at all or if you and your partner have sex only with each other and neither of you have HPV.
- Two vaccines (Cervarix and Gardasil) can protect against the types of HPV that cause most cervical cancers. (Gardasil also protects against genital warts.) Vaccination is recommended for girls 11 and 12 years old. If you are 13 to 26, you also can get the vaccine. It works best if you get vaccinated before you ever have sexual contact.
- A Pap test can find changes on your cervix caused by HPV. Ask your doctor when to get Pap tests. You will still need Pap tests even if you get the HPV vaccine.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### National Cancer Institute

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccines for Cervical Cancer

Phone number: (800) 4-CANCER or (800) 422-6237

Web address: <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/hpv-vaccines> or <http://www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/types/cervical>

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) HPV Website, HHS

Phone number: (800) CDC-INFO or (800) 232-4636

Web address: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv>

#### CDC National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, HHS

Phone number: (800) CDC-INFO or (800) 232-4636

Web address: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp>

#### National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), NIH, HHS

Phone number: (866) 284-4107

Web address: <http://www3.niaid.nih.gov>

#### American Cancer Society

Phone number: (800) ACS-2345 or (800) 227-2345

Web address: <http://www.cancer.org>

#### American Social Health Association

Phone number: (800) 227-8922

Web address: <http://www.ashastd.org/hpvcrc>



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