



Getting the HPV vaccine (Gardasil®)

What is HPV?

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common viral infection that can be spread during sexual activity. There are many types of HPV. Some types of HPV cause no harm, but others can cause genital warts or even cervical cancer. Genital warts are bumps on or inside the sex organs that can be painful, itchy, and hard to get rid of. Cervical cancer is a serious disease that can be life-threatening.

What is the HPV vaccine (Gardasil®)?

The Gardasil® HPV vaccine protects against the 4 types of HPV that are most likely to cause genital warts and cervical cancer. The vaccination process requires 3 shots over an 8 month period. The vaccine cannot protect you against HPV types to which you have already been exposed, so it works best when given before you become sexually active. However, even if you are already sexually active or already have HPV, you may still benefit from the vaccine. The Gardasil® HPV vaccine is approved for girls and women age 9 through 26 years old.

How can I get the HPV vaccine at FHC clinics?

Ask your healthcare provider if the HPV vaccine is a good idea for you. Make sure to complete all 3 doses on schedule.

If you are age 9 through 17 years old:

- Vaccines For Children (VFC) will pay for your vaccine if you are Medicaid-eligible, Native American or Alaska Native, uninsured, OR if you have health insurance that does not cover vaccines.
- Make an appointment with Pediatrics or Women's Health. A parent or guardian must be present at the appointment to sign paperwork.

If you are 18 years old:

- Vaccines For Children (VFC) will pay for your vaccine if you are eligible (see above).
- Make an appointment with Pediatrics or Women's Health. Your parent/guardian does not need to come to the appointment.

If you are age 19 through 26 years old:

- Passport Health Plan will pay for Gardasil. Other types of health insurance may also cover the vaccine.
- If not on Passport or other insurance that covers the vaccine, you must pay \$150 prior to each shot (\$450 total for 3 shots).
- Make an appointment with Primary Care or Women's Health.



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