

# KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT HUMAN PAPILOMAVIRUS

**Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** is the most common sexually transmitted infection. There are many types that can cause health problems, including certain types of cancer and genital warts.

## Signs

- HPV does not usually show symptoms
- Some people may get painful bumps or warts on or around their genitals

## Spread

- Having vaginal, anal, or oral sex, or close skin-skin touching during sex with someone who has the virus
- Mother-to-baby by pregnancy, labor or nursing if the mother has the virus even if she is showing no symptoms
- A person with HPV can still infect others even if they are showing no signs or symptoms

## Vaccine

- The first dose is routinely recommended for ages 11-12.
- If you start before age 15, only 2 doses are needed instead of 3
- People ages 26+ can decide with their doctor whether to get vaccinated
- Vaccine side effects often go away within 2 days and are usually mild.



## Facts

- There are over 100 types of HPV, and 14 of them cause a high-risk of cancer which may form in the vulva, vagina, penis, anus or mouth.
- 60% of the cancers that develop are in the mouth, tongue, or throat.
- Symptoms can develop years after having sex with someone who has the infection, so it is difficult to know when you first got it.



**Vaccinate now, protect yourself and others.**

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