

# WORLD HPV AWARENESS DAY

MARCH 4



March 4, 2026

Dear Virginia Healthcare Providers,

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination is an important tool for protecting Virginians against cancer and we need your help. In honor of HPV Awareness Day, this is a Call-to-Action letter from our partners across private and public sectors to support the initiation of the HPV vaccination at ages 11 to 12, or as early as 9.



HPV vaccination rates in Virginia are comparable to rates at the national level; however, we are still falling far short of the [Healthy People 2030](#) benchmark of 80% HPV vaccination rates for adolescent boys and girls. In 2024, approximately 69% of boys and 75% of girls ages 13-17 in Virginia were up to date on their HPV vaccinations.

## We still have work to do because HPV vaccination is proven cancer prevention:



Prevents **6** different types of cancers, including cervical and cancers of the head and neck.



**20 years** of safety and effectiveness monitoring that continues today.



To work best, the HPV vaccine should be given in a series of shots between the ages of **11 to 12**, or as early as **9** years old.



Data shows that your recommendation may improve vaccine uptake by up to **5** times.

## Steps your clinic can take to support HPV vaccination rates:

- **Recommend HPV vaccines** for all patients aged 9 years through 26 years of age. Engage in shared clinical decision making with adults 27-45 regarding the vaccine's benefits given their individual circumstance.
- **Promote HPV vaccine administration alongside other routine vaccinations.** Encourage same day vaccination in your facility.
- **Leverage your local pharmacy to deliver vaccinations.** If you are not able to stock vaccines at your facility, e-prescribe/prescribe to the pharmacy.
- **Provide reminders** to those who are not up to date.

The Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\) Program](#) provides free HPV vaccines for all VFC eligible children. You can learn more about the VFC Program on the [VDH Website](#). Most health insurance plans cover the HPV vaccine through age 26.

## For more information, please review the resources and links below:

- [American Academy of Pediatrics HPV](#)
- [Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia \(CACV\)](#)
- [Virginia Department of Health](#)
- [American Cancer Society](#)
- [HPV Vaccination Roundtable of the Southeast's Southeast U.S. Call to Action: Elimination of HPV Cancers Starting with Cervical Cancer as a Public Health Concern](#)

Thank you for all that you do to improve the health of your patients and for your participation in this important call-to-action to prevent cancer by increasing the uptake of the HPV vaccination in Virginia.

Sincerely, 

Dr. Natasha Sriraman's, MD, MPH, FAAP, FABM  
VA-AAP President



Erin Brickley, DO, FAAP  
VA-AAP Immunization Chair



[Clinical Overview of HPV | CDC](#); [HPV Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness Data | CDC](#); [HPV Vaccine Recommendations | CDC](#); [Vaccination Coverage among Adolescents \(13 – 17 Years\) | TeenVaxView | CDC](#); Ylitalo KR, Lee H, Mehta NK. Health care provider recommendation, human papillomavirus vaccination, and race/ethnicity in the US National Immunization Survey. *Am J Public Health*. 2013 Jan;103(1):164-9. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2011.300600. Epub 2012 Jun 14. PMID: 22698055; PMCID: PMC3518336.