**Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine**

**Indications:**
- Start series at age 11, but okay to begin as early as age 9
- Can start until age 26 in females, MSM and immunocompromised
- Healthy males through age 21

**Schedule:**
- If less than 15 years old, give 2 doses:
  - 1 @ 0 months and 1 @ 6-12 months
- If over 15 years old give 3 doses:
  - 1 @ 0 months, 1 @ 1-2 months, and 1 @ 6 months

**Facts:**
- 91% of cervical cancer is due to HPV
- 89% in men and 92% in women of anal cancer is due to HPV
- 72% in men and 63% in women of oropharyngeal cancer is due to HPV
- Efficacy of the vaccine is 90% or higher in preventing cancers caused by HPV
  - Gardisil 9 is 97% effective in preventing high grade cervical, vaginal and vulvar disease
  - Gardisil 9 covers HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58

Sources: CDC/ACIP and AAFP
HPV Vaccination Patient/Family FAQs

• Why is this important at such a young age?
  → Giving the vaccine earlier improves the body’s immune response to the virus. Waiting to start the series after age 15 means 1 additional shot.
• Is my child really at risk?
  → YES. HPV is a very common virus that can cause cancer. Getting the vaccine earlier can prevent infection, no matter their age at exposure to the virus. All it takes is one exposure.
• Is it safe?
  → Yes. All vaccines can cause pain, swelling or redness, but this normally goes away in a couple of days. If your child is prone to fainting after shots, please let us know.
• How do you know it works?
  → Many studies have proven the vaccine to be effective. Rates of HPV pre-cancers have decreased due to vaccination.
• I’m worried my child will think that getting the vaccine makes it okay to have sex.
  → Studies have shown this is not true. Getting the vaccine does not lead patients to engage in sexual activity.

Patient resources: