

# As your healthcare provider, I recommend the HPV vaccine...

## Please **THINK TWICE** and vaccinate!!

HPV stands for the Human Papilloma Virus. It can lead to cancer in men and women. This includes cancers of the cervix, penis, vagina, anus, vulva, mouth and throat. It also causes genital warts. The HPV vaccine is the **best** way to prevent this common infection.



Photo courtesy of the CDC

### Why now?

Yes, 11 and 12 years of age may seem young, but this vaccine is given to prevent HPV infection. So, it's best to give it **before** any touching or experimenting happens. **The vaccine works best at this age!**

### I don't want my child to have sex.

Studies have shown that getting the HPV vaccine **does not** encourage kids to have sex. The vaccine prevents cancer. It doesn't teach or change your child's sexual behavior.

### Is the shot safe?

Yes, the HPV vaccine is safe. Since 2006 more than 60 million doses have been given in the U.S. No serious side effects have been found.

### But, I heard the shot hurts...

It does sting a little, but only for a few minutes. The protection from infection lasts for years!

### How do you catch HPV?

HPV is spread by skin to skin contact, usually during intimate contact. It can be spread the **first time** this occurs.

### What could happen if I don't get it?

Please see Christine's story on the back for one example.



Christine Baze, Age 31

“In March, I went for my yearly Pap test. I've had yearly paps since I was 18 years old, and always had normal results, until this one. I was told that I had some dysplastic cell growth on my cervix and that he needed to do a colposcopy to biopsy the cells. I barely knew where my cervix was and certainly didn't understand anything about cell mutation---that's when I was told it could turn into cancer many years down the road if not treated. Cancer? Me? [My doctor] assured me that I did

NOT have cancer and that we would meet the following week to review the results of this biopsy and schedule a LEEP procedure [loop electrosurgical excision procedure], a mild surgery that would scrape off the bad cells.

He was wrong. At 8:15 the morning of April 18th, I received a phone call confirming an appointment I did not have, with a doctor I did not know. Realizing I had not heard the news yet, the woman apologized on the other line, and stumbled over her words as she told me she was confirming an appointment with a gynecologic oncologist at a local cancer center. That's how I found out I had cancer.

It all happened very quickly after that. I was diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer with extensive lymphatic invasion. I had a radical hysterectomy 10 days after my diagnosis, a laparoscopic procedure a month later to move my ovaries out of the "frying zone," 5 weeks of daily pelvic radiation concurrent with 4 rounds of chemotherapy, followed by 3 rounds of internal radiation (brachytherapy). They gave me everything they had in order to save me. Within 4 months I was done with everything. Everything other than the deep dark depression, that is....”

To read Christine’s story in full please go to this link: <http://bit.ly/1u2xXzx>

**RUMOR**

**TRUTH**

HPV vaccine causes infertility.

- HPV vaccine prevents an infection that can cause cancer. Cancer in turn can cause infertility. HPV vaccine actually prevents infertility; it does not cause it.

This vaccine is only for girls.

- The HPV vaccine is recommended for both girls and boys because HPV causes cancer in both sexes.

My kids don’t need this vaccine until they become sexually active.

- This vaccine prevents HPV infection; it doesn’t treat it. Prevention occurs before a child is sexually active.

My kids are taught abstinence, so they don’t need this vaccine.

- Unless you are teaching their future spouse abstinence too, they are better safe than sorry. It only takes one contact to spread HPV.

The HPV vaccine is a killer.

- Research has not shown HPV vaccine to be the cause of even a single death.

For additional information on this vaccine and all vaccines please see the following trustworthy resources:

[www.aimtoolkit.org](http://www.aimtoolkit.org)

[www.vaccine.chop.edu](http://www.vaccine.chop.edu)

[www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

[www.shotbyshot.org](http://www.shotbyshot.org)

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)

[www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize)

If, after reading this information, you still feel vaccination is not right for you or your child, please follow this advice:

Make sure all health care professionals, including emergency rooms and urgent care centers, know your child is not fully vaccinated. It could help them diagnose and treat a vaccine preventable disease.

Symptoms of HPV could include: warts in the genital area, consistent difficulty swallowing, or abnormal pap smear results.

