

HPV Free ID

Toolkit for Increasing HPV Vaccination Rates in Idaho



HPV Free Idaho

The Idaho Division of Public Health, in partnership with the Idaho Immunization Coalition, American Cancer Society, Central District Health Department, Comprehensive Cancer Alliance for Idaho, St. Luke's, Saint Alphonsus and the American Academy of Pediatrics is calling you to action in the fight against human papillomavirus (HPV), a group of viruses linked to multiple types of cancer and other health problems such as genital warts. This call to action is driven by persistently low vaccination rates in Idaho and the increasing rates of cancers caused by HPV.

Are you aware that HPV is so common that nearly all sexually active people will get infected with at least one strain of HPV in their lifetime?

Although there are safe and effective vaccines to protect against HPV, vaccination rates in Idaho remain below the U.S. average, and a majority of our adolescents are being left unprotected against HPV-related diseases. In 2017, only 45.7% of adolescent females and 29.4% of adolescent males in Idaho had completed the vaccination series. These rates fall considerably short of the Healthy People 2020 objective which states 80% of 13-15-year old's will be fully vaccinated. These low vaccination rates reveal countless missed opportunities to prevent HPV-associated cancers and other diseases. The HPV vaccine is cancer prevention. To find Idaho's current rates, please visit www.immunizeidaho.com.

We are asking you to join us in the fight against HPV starting today. No man or woman should have to suffer or die from cancers or other diseases when the resources to protect them are available. **Join us by helping to promote February 2019 as HPV Vaccination Month. This is a statewide effort to encourage Idaho parents to vaccinate their children against HPV and protect them from HPV related-cancers.**

This toolkit is intended to provide important resources to healthcare providers and community stakeholders from diverse settings across the state. This toolkit includes materials to help you communicate with your communities about the importance of receiving the HPV vaccine.

We encourage you to get involved, support, and share the campaign messages of HPV cancer prevention. For up-to-date information and resources, please visit www.HPVFreeID.org

If you have questions, would like assistance, or need additional materials, please e-mail or call the Idaho Immunization Program at iip@dhw.idaho.gov or 208-334-5931.

Thank you for all that you do to improve the health of Idahoans and for joining this important fight for an HPV Free ID.

Your Role in an HPV Free Idaho

Help promote **February 2019 is HPV Vaccination Month.**

- Spread the word.
- Talk with parents and adolescents to increase knowledge and awareness about HPV, its associated cancers, and the HPV vaccine.
- Reach out to providers and tell them that their HPV vaccine recommendations matter.

- Share this project and toolkit with healthcare providers and other community stakeholders in your network.
- Direct parents, adolescents, providers, and stakeholders to the project’s website at www.HPVFreeID.org to access these resources and information including electronic versions of this toolkit.
- Reach out and spread the message through social media. HPV Free Idaho has created twitter and Facebook posts and images for your health system, clinic or organization to utilize.
- Be an advocate for the HPV vaccine.

Your Strategies for Increasing Vaccination Coverage Rates

Strong Provider Recommendations

It is important to state that you recommend all vaccines on the schedule and not merely mention that they are available.

Patient Reminder Recall

Immunization reminder-recall systems are cost-effective methods to identify and notify families whose children are due soon for immunizations (reminder) or are already behind (recall). Reminder and recall systems are powerful ways to ensure optimal vaccination rates.

Methods to remind or recall families include:

- Phone calls by office staff
- Mail reminder cards or letter
- Text messages
- Patient portals

Provider Protocols

Provider prompts usually consist of electronic prompts in Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems or notes in charts. This prompt could present as a “to-do” task or as a pop-up alert.

Provider Protocols for immunizations include office policies, procedures, and orders to provide recommended immunizations to patients. For example, a protocol might be in place to instruct health care personnel (as allowed by the state) to give a specific vaccine to all patients for whom the vaccine is recommended based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended immunization schedule.

Include All Recommended Vaccinations at Every Visit

It is important to vaccinate whenever possible, because you don’t know when a patient will be back in your office.

Provider Feedback

Providers change their behavior (i.e., clinical practices) based on feedback that they are different from those of their peers. To determine immunization rates for providers, consider running an immunization rate report through your EHR or perform a chart audit to determine the percentage of patients that are up-to-date on immunizations by each provider in your office.

Find an Immunization Champion

An immunization champion can serve as a steward and advocate of immunizations in your practice.

Educate Patients and Their Parents

Take every opportunity to educate parents and patients. Let them know at each visit what vaccines they can expect at their next appointment and provide handouts on these vaccines and diseases.

Address Costs

The Idaho Immunization Program (IIP) provides free vaccine to participating medical providers for patients 0 through 18 years of age. If you are interested in enrolling in the IIP's Vaccines for Children program, please contact the IIP at 208-334-5931 or by email at iip@dhw.idaho.gov.

Hold Vaccine Clinics at Hours that are Convenient for Families

Holding vaccination clinics with special hours (evening or Saturday) at your practice allows for more opportunities for busy adolescents and their parents to access vaccination services.

For more information and to view the full documents visit https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/immunization_topstrategiesforincreasingcoverage.pdf

Social Media Tools

HPV Free Idaho create a social media toolkit to help HPV Free Idaho participants join in on our Cancer Prevention Month/HPV Vaccination Month social media strategy by disseminating HPV vaccination messaging. Any HPV Free Idaho participating partner or provider should use this toolkit to share HPV vaccination messages and graphics.

For more information on the HPV Free Idaho Social Media Toolkit visit <https://www.hpvfreeid.org/provider-resources>

Social Media Opposition Responses

Studies have proven that the HPV vaccine doesn't alter sexual behavior.

- Canadian Medical Association Journal (2014):

<http://www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2014/12/08/cmaj.140900>

The side effects that Gardasil lists are generally not that different from what is seen in the safety reviews of other vaccines.

- For example, fainting is common after any needle injection, especially in preteens and teens.

Reported deaths due to vaccination: “The 32 death reports were reviewed and there was no common pattern to the deaths that would suggest they were caused by the vaccine. In cases where there was an autopsy, death certificate, or medical records, the cause of death could be explained by factors other than the vaccine. Some causes of death determined to date include diabetes, viral illness, illicit drug use, and heart failure.”¹

Safety concerns related to vaccination: The findings were generally not that different from what is seen in the safety reviews of other vaccines recommended for a similar age group, 9 to 26 years old (meningitis and Tdap). Based on the review of available information by FDA and CDC, the HPV vaccine continues to be safe and effective, and its benefits continue to outweigh its risks.²

Utilize These Tips and Key Messages with your Patients for HPV Immunization Success

1. Recommend the HPV vaccine series the same way you would recommend any other adolescent vaccine. For example, you can say “(Insert name) needs/is due for these shots today: HPV, Meningococcal, and Tdap.”
2. Be familiar with what parents may hear from the media and subsequent questions and concerns they may have.
3. Parents want to know why the recommended age for the HPV vaccination is 11-12 years.
 - Just like any other vaccine, we vaccinate people well before they could be exposed to an infection.
 - Studies have shown that the immune response to the HPV vaccine is stronger when it is given at 11-12 years.
4. Parents may be concerned that if they vaccinate their tween (age 11 or 12 years) against HPV, they have given them permission to have sex.
 - Research has shown this just isn’t true! Getting the HPV vaccine does not make tweens more likely to be sexually active, nor do they start having sex at a younger age.
5. Parents may not understand the disease prevalence, or they may be unclear about what the vaccine protects against.
 - HPV can cause cancers of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in women. It can cause cancer of the penis in men.
 - HPV can also cause cancers of the anus and mouth/throat in both women and men.
 - A majority of these cancers could be prevented with the HPV vaccine.

¹ KEY MESSAGES JAMA Article: Postlicensure Safety Surveillance for Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Recombinant Vaccine. (n.d.). Retrieved December 5, 2016, from http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/download/JAMA_HP_V_Key_Points.pdf

² KEY MESSAGES JAMA Article: Postlicensure Safety Surveillance for Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Recombinant Vaccine. (n.d.). Retrieved December 5, 2016, from http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/download/JAMA_HP_V_Key_Points.pdf

6. Parents want to know that the vaccine is safe.
 - The HPV vaccine has been carefully studied and has been through the same stringent FDA licensure process as all vaccines.
 - More than 62 million doses of HPV vaccine have been given to date in the U.S., and vaccine studies continue to show that HPV vaccines are safe.
 - Like other shots, most side effects are mild, including temporary pain or redness in the arm.
 - Fainting can be common after any injection, especially among tweens & teens. After the vaccination is given, have the patient sit or lie down for 15 minutes to prevent any injuries in case fainting does occur.
7. Parents want to know which other vaccines are recommended for their tween/teen. All tweens/teens need:
 - annual flu vaccine
Flu: Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every year. Those who have chronic health problems are at a greater risk for complications from the flu, but even healthy adolescents can get very sick from the flu.
 - 1 dose of Tdap vaccine
Tdap: One dose of Tdap vaccine is recommended at ages 11-12 years for protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). This vaccine is required for 7th grade school entry in Idaho.
 - 2 doses of Meningococcal vaccine
Meningococcal: One dose of meningococcal vaccine is recommended at ages 11-12 and another dose at age 16 to boost immunity levels for protection against bacteria that can cause meningococcal disease including sepsis and meningitis. Meningitis can be very serious, even fatal. One dose of meningococcal vaccine is required for 7th grade school entry in Idaho.
 - 2 doses of HPV vaccine for most tweens
As of November 2016, ACIP routinely recommends two doses of HPV vaccine for 11 or 12-year-old to prevent HPV cancers. The first HPV vaccine dose is routinely recommended at 11-12 years old. The second dose of the vaccine should be administered 6 to 12 months after the first dose.
 - 3 doses of HPV vaccine for others
Teens and young adults who start the series at ages 15 through 26 years will continue to need three doses of HPV vaccine to protect against cancer-causing HPV infections. Adolescents ages 9 through 14 years who have already received two doses of HPV vaccine less than 5 months apart, will require a third dose. Three doses are recommended for people with weakened immune systems ages 9-26 years.

Tween / Teen Vaccination Checklist

Considering that tweens and teens have infrequent visits, review vaccination status at every visit.

Use every opportunity to vaccinate your teen patients.

1. Make teen-friendly educational information available in your waiting room.
2. Remind parents that childhood immunization protection doesn't last a lifetime.
3. Use acute care visits and sports physicals as opportunities for vaccination.
 - a. Patients with minor illnesses with or without low-grade fever can be vaccinated
4. Vaccines Recommended for Adolescents*
 - Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis
 - Meningococcal
 - Human papillomavirus
 - Influenza
5. Catch-Up Vaccines for Adolescents*

Tweens and teens should receive doses of these vaccines as indicated:

 - Hepatitis A ‡
 - Hepatitis B ‡
 - Inactivated poliovirus ‡
 - Measles-Mumps-Rubella ‡
 - Varicella ‡
 - Pneumococcal †

For all vaccines given during adolescence, fainting has been reported in both boys and girls. After the vaccination is given, have the patient sit or lie down for 15 minutes to prevent any injuries in case fainting does occur.

Adapted from: Adolescent Immunizations: Strategies for Increasing Coverage Rates. (2013, July). Retrieved from https://www.aap.org/enus/Documents/immunization_topstrategiesforincreasingcoverage.pdf

*See the complete Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 7-18 Years at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/preteen-teen.html

‡Recommended for teens who did not receive these immunizations as children.

†Appropriate for adolescents at high risk of contracting this disease.

Additional Resources

General HPV

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – www.cdc.gov/hpv
- Immunization Action Coalition – www.immunize.org/hpv
- Vaccine Education Center – vec.chop.edu/service/vaccine-education-center/prevent-hpv/index.html

HPV Associated Cancers

- American Cancer Society – www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/othercarcinogens/infectiousagents/hpv/index
- Cervical Cancer Free Coalition – www.cervicalcancerfreeamerica.org
- Kristen Forbes EVE Foundation – www.kristeneve.org
- National Cancer Institute – www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/HPV
- HPV Associated Cancers in Idaho - <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Health/Disease/Comp%20Cancer/IdahoHPVFactSheet.pdf>

Provider & Clinic Resources

- Vaccine Information Statements in Multiple Languages (Immunization Action Coalition) – www.immunize.org/vis
- Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program – www.immunizeidaho.com.
- You Are the Key Toolkit – www.cdc.gov/vaccines/youarethekey