

Start HPV Vaccination at Age 9

Call to Action



Dear NJ Health System Leader:

The NJ HPV Vaccination Action Team, a subgroup of the New Jersey State Cancer Coalition, is leading this Call to Action to improve the poor HPV vaccination uptake rates in the state. NJ is currently ranked lowest in the country for on-time HPV vaccination completion rates by 13 years of age.¹ Endorsing starting the HPV vaccine at age 9 aligns your health organization with the latest recommendations in the country to increase on-time HPV vaccination in adolescents. **NJ is joining NY, PA, MD, NH, VT, CT, VA, and DC, in a multi-state, Northeast Call to Action to increase HPV vaccination through initiation of HPV vaccination at age 9.** To date, 13 state health departments in the U.S have endorsed Start at 9, including the NJ Department of Health.

The rationale for endorsement is as follows:

1. HPV is a common infection in the U.S with 85% of people affected during their lifetime, which can cause a variety of health problems, including 6 different types of cancer.²
2. HPV infection was responsible for an estimated 6,488 new cases of HPV-Associated cancer in New Jersey residents, between 2016 and 2019, (NJDOH, 2023).
3. NJ is in the top quartile for states with the highest overall cancer incidence rates in the country (CDC 2020).
4. NIS-Teen data suggest that only 19% of 13-year-old adolescents in New Jersey had a complete HPV vaccine series (ACS analysis, 2023 NIS-Teen data).
5. Since its approval in 2006, the HPV vaccine continues to be extremely safe and effective at preventing HPV infections, genital warts, and associated cancers.³
6. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine administration of HPV vaccine at 11-12 years and states it can begin at age 9.⁴
7. National organizations now recommend starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9 to improve uptake including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)⁵, the American Cancer Society⁶, and the National HPV Roundtable⁷ among many others.
8. Evidence shows that starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9 leads to significantly higher rates of series completion by age 13.⁸
9. Achieving higher levels of on-time HPV vaccination (between 9 and 12) will lead to increased numbers of cancers prevented and reduced mortality.⁹
10. AAP and the National HPV Roundtable have found that starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9:
 - a. Allows for more time for completion of the series
 - b. Decreases questions about sexual activity by parents and guardians
 - c. Decreases requests for “only the school-required vaccines”
 - d. Increases the likelihood of vaccination prior to first HPV exposure
 - e. Is highly acceptable to parents, clinicians, and systems

¹ American Cancer Society, Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Facts & Figures 2025-2026.

[Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Facts & Figures 2025-2026](#)

² <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/clinical-overview/index.html>

³ National Institutes of Health. National Cancer Institute. <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/infectious-agents/hpv-vaccine-fact-sheet> Accessed 1/27/23.

⁴ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/hpv.html#recs> Accessed 1/27/23.

⁵ O'Leary S, Nyquist A. Why AAP recommends initiating HPV vaccination as early as possible. <https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/14942> Published 2019. Updated October 4, 2019. Accessed 1/27/23.

⁶ American Cancer Society. Prevent 6 cancers with the HPV vaccine. <https://www.cancer.org/healthy/hpv-vaccine.html> Accessed 1/27/23.

⁷ National HPV Vaccination Roundtable. <https://hpvroundtable.org/hpv-vaccination-starts-at-9/> accessed 1/27/2023.

⁸ National HPV Vaccination Roundtable. Evidence Summary: HPV Vaccination at 9-12 Years of Age. <https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Evidence-Summary-HPV-Vaccination-Age-9-12-Final.pdf> Accessed 1/27/23.

⁹ Saslow, et al., Human Papillomavirus Vaccination 2020 Guideline Update: American Cancer Society Guideline Adaptation. CA CANCER J CLIN 2020;70:274–280.

11. One in five providers are already giving the HPV vaccine at ages 9 to 10 and approximately 50% are willing to recommend it at age 9.¹⁰

CALL TO ACTION

By endorsing “Start at 9” your organization is agreeing to the following actions:

1. **To share a Final, [Start at 9 Provider Letter](#) when available with your network of pediatric and family care providers to encourage them to adopt starting at age 9 as a standard of care, and;**
2. **To promote the implementation of the other HPV vaccination best practices (included on the Start at 9 Provider Letter) in your health system or network. Specifically:**
 - ✓ To make a strong recommendation for the HPV vaccine for all patients starting at age 9 through 26 years. Data shows that a strong recommendation may increase vaccinations by up to 5 times.⁹
 - ✓ To set your electronic health record notifications to recommend starting at age 9, and up to 26 years for adults.
 - ✓ To review the vaccination status of patients at every visit - not just well checks.
 - ✓ To proactively monitor and recall patients who are not up to date on their immunizations.

To endorse Start at 9, please complete this brief [form](#). Your logo will be added to the [NJ HPV Vaccination Action Team Start at 9 Webpage](#) and your institution name will be included on the **FINAL Start at 9 Provider Letter** (to be shared with you later when we reach a critical mass of organizations).

For more information about this initiative or to share your logo, please contact info@njhpv.org

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

¹⁰ Kong WY, Huang Q, Thompson P, Grabert BK, Brewer NT, Gilkey MB. Recommending HPV vaccination at age 9: A national survey of primary care professionals. Academic Pediatrics. 2022.