

# PREVENTING CANCER *At the Dentist!*

## What is HPV?

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus that spreads from skin-to-skin contact. **Almost everyone will have HPV at some point in their life.**

HPV usually has no symptoms, so most people with HPV don't know they have it. Most cases of HPV go away on their own, but other cases can go on to cause cancer.

## HPV & Cancer

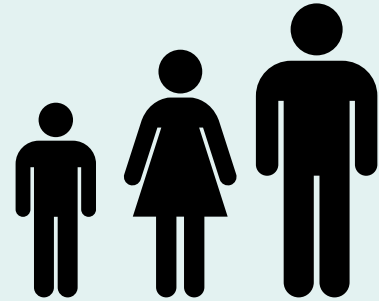
HPV causes 6 types of cancer. The most common are oropharyngeal and cervical cancer. The oropharynx is the area in the back of the tongue and throat.



80% of oropharyngeal cancer cases are found in men. Cervical cancer is found in women and people with a cervix.



The vaccine is given in 2 or 3 doses over several months. If you are 14 or younger, you need 2 shots. After age 14, you will need an extra catch-up shot to be fully protected.



**The vaccine is for everyone ages 9 to 26.**

The HPV vaccine protects you or your child from the most cancer-causing strains of HPV and 90% of genital warts.

**The best time to get the HPV vaccine is between ages 9 and 12.** This is because children have a stronger immune response.

**How much do YOU know about HPV?**



**Scan the QR Code with your phone to take our HPV quiz!**



**NJ HPV Vaccination  
Action Team**  
Working to Prevent HPV Cancers

Adapted with permission from the Massachusetts HPV Coalition and Team Maureen. Visit [mahpvcoalition.org](http://mahpvcoalition.org) for more information.