

# New York State “Start at 9” Campaign to Prevent HPV Cancers

May 2023

## NYS organizations that have endorsed starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9

- American Academy of Pediatrics, NY
- Academy of Family Physicians, NY
- The Nurse Practitioner Association NYS
- American Cancer Society
- Community Healthcare Assoc. of NYS
- County Health Officials of New York State
- New York School Based Health Alliance
- New York State Public Health Association
- New York State Cancer Consortium
- Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield HealthPlus
- Independent Health
- Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan
- New York City Health and Hospitals
- Northwell Health Cancer Institute
- North Country Family Health Center
- Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital
- Erie County Medical Center
- Great Lakes Cancer Care Collaborative
- St Lawrence County Health Initiative
- HEALTHeLINK
- Stony Brook Medicine
- Ovarian Cancer Project
- Suffolk County Depart. of Health Services
- Catholic Health Cancer Institute
- Latino Commission on AIDS
- UR Medicine/Golisano Children’s Hosp.
- Hispanic Health Network
- UR Accountable Health Partners
- HPV Cancers Alliance
- Bassett Healthcare Network
- Caleb’s Feet Foundation
- Genesee and Orleans County DOH
- Erie County Department of Health
- Orange County Department of Health
- Westchester Medical Center
- Putnam County Department of Health
- Gilda’s Club Westchester
- Jefferson County Department of Health
- Family Health Centers and NYU Langone
- Westchester Department of Health
- Fulton County Department of Health
- Anthony L. Jordan Health Corporation
- St. Lawrence County DOH
- Greene County Department of Health
- Cancer Ctr., Columbia U. Irving Med. Ctr.

Dear Medical Provider:

HPV infection affects about 85 percent of the population and can cause 6 types of cancer, including cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal, and oropharyngeal cancer, as well as genital warts.<sup>1</sup> Approximately twenty-eight hundred New Yorkers are diagnosed with an HPV-related cancer each year.<sup>2</sup>

The HPV vaccine, which is recommended to adolescents between ages 9 and 12, is safe and extremely effective in preventing HPV infections and cancers. However, HPV vaccination rates continue to be much lower than the rates of other routinely recommended vaccines for adolescents in New York State (NYS). In fact, only 40.2% of 13-year-old adolescents in NYS have completed the HPV vaccine series leaving most of that age group unprotected from future HPV cancers.<sup>3</sup>

### That is why we need your help.

As a health care provider, you can aid cancer prevention efforts by talking to parents or guardians about the importance of the vaccine to reduce the risk of HPV-related cancer. Indeed, evidence suggests that a provider recommendation is among the most persuasive reasons parents choose to vaccinate their children.

The latest research also suggests that starting the HPV vaccination series at age 9 can increase the percentage of your patients that are up to date by age 13.<sup>4</sup> The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Cancer Society, and the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable recommend starting the series at age 9. This strategy is consistent with the ACIP recommendation stating the HPV series can start at age 9.<sup>4</sup>

Other reasons cited for starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9 include:<sup>5</sup>

- Provides more time for completion of the series.
- Decreases questions about sexual activity.
- Decreases requests for only the “school-required vaccines.”
- Increases the likelihood of full vaccination before first HPV exposure.
- Is highly acceptable to systems, providers, and parents.

And you will not be alone in making this change to your clinical practice. Nationally, one in five vaccinating providers are already administering the HPV vaccine at ages 9 to 10 and half are willing to recommend it at age 9.<sup>6</sup> *Learn more about starting at age 9 at <https://hpvroundtable.org/hpv-vaccination-starts-at-9/>*

## Recommend starting HPV vaccination at age 9!

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/stdfact-hpv.htm> Accessed 1/27/23.

<sup>2</sup> New York State Department of Health. New York State Cancer Registry. [Data provisional](#). November 2021.

<sup>3</sup> New York State Department of Health. [NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard](#).

<sup>4</sup> National HPV Vaccination Roundtable. [Evidence Summary: HPV Vaccination at 9-12 Years of Age](#).

<sup>5</sup> O’Leary S, Nyquist A. [Why AAP recommends initiating HPV vaccination as early as possible](#).

<sup>6</sup> 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.