

HPV Vaccine Questions and Answers

- **Will girls and women who have been vaccinated still need cervical cancer screening?**

Yes, for three reasons. Number one, the vaccine will not protect against all types of HPV that cause cervical cancer, so vaccinated women will still be at risk for some cancers. Second, some women may not get all required doses of the vaccine, or they may not get them at the right times, so they may not get the vaccine's full benefits. And last, women may not get the full benefit of the vaccine if they receive it after they have already acquired one of the four HPV types.

- **Should girls and women be screened before getting vaccinated?**

No. Girls and women do not need to get an HPV test or Pap test to find out if they should get the vaccine. An HPV test or a Pap test can tell that a woman may have HPV, but these tests cannot tell the specific HPV type or types that a woman has. Even those with one HPV type could get protection from the other vaccine HPV types they have not yet acquired.

- **Will girls be required to get vaccinated before they enter school?**

There are no federal laws that require children or adolescents to get vaccinated. All school and day care entry laws are state laws, so they can vary from state to state. Check with your state health department or board of education to find out what vaccines are needed for children or teens to enter school or day care in your state.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HPV Vaccine Questions and Answers. Accessed at www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/STDFact-HPV-vaccine.htm#hpvvac5.