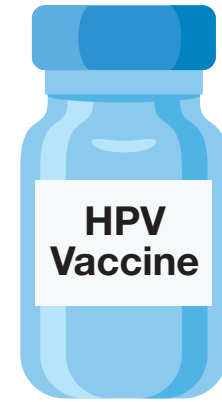


# How to Counsel Youth and Young Adults on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in Dental Settings



HPV is a very common virus. Eight out of 10 people will get HPV at some point in their life. It causes 70% of oropharyngeal (mouth and throat) cancer cases in the U.S. Oropharyngeal cancer is the most common HPV-related cancer, and its rate is increasing. Early detection can be difficult, but the HPV vaccine safely and effectively protects against the major types of HPV that can cause cancer.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and American Dental Association (ADA) encourage dental professionals to educate and counsel youth and young adults on HPV vaccination. Through counseling, dental professionals can play a role in helping to prevent HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer in youth and young adults.

Currently, New York City's (NYC) HPV vaccination rate of 48% falls dramatically short of the national goal of 80%. The HPV vaccine should be recommended to youth ages 11 to 12, regardless of sex assigned at birth or gender identity, when their chances of getting HPV are low and immune response to the vaccine is strong. The Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the HPV vaccine for people up to age 26 who were not previously or adequately vaccinated.

Youth who start their vaccination series before age 15 should receive two shots at least six months apart. Anyone who starts their series at age 15 or older will require three shots given over six months.

For more information from the AAPD or ADA, visit [aapd.org](http://aapd.org) or [ada.org](http://ada.org) and search for **HPV**.

## Talking to Youth and Young Adults About the HPV Vaccine

Try these approaches when talking to youth and young adults about HPV and vaccination, depending on their age group:

### Patients Ages 11 to 13

- Share: **“I have some important information about vaccines and oral health. Please share this with your parent or guardian when you get home.”**

- Follow up:
  - Provide the patient with a handout titled “HPV Vaccine: A Safe and Effective Way to Protect Your Child from Cancer,” which can be found in English at [on.nyc.gov/hpv-vaccine-children](https://on.nyc.gov/hpv-vaccine-children) and Spanish at [on.nyc.gov/hpv-vaccine-children-sp](https://on.nyc.gov/hpv-vaccine-children-sp).
  - If there is a health care provider on-site, confirm that the patient has had a well-child visit within the last 12 months.

### Patients Age 14 and Older

- Share: “Do you know if you received the HPV vaccine? It is another way you can

protect your oral health and prevent HPV, which can cause mouth and throat cancer in the future.”

- Follow up:
  - Provide the patient with a handout in English and Spanish titled “HPV Vaccine: A Safe and Effective Way to Protect Your Child from Cancer.”
  - Direct the patient or their parent or guardian to read more information at [nyc.gov/health/hpv](https://nyc.gov/health/hpv).
  - If there is a health care provider on-site, refer patients who are not vaccinated to a health care provider.

## Resources

### NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

These two handouts provide potential talking points for discussing the HPV vaccine with parents:

- You Are the Key to Preventing Cancers Caused by HPV: [on.nyc.gov/prevent-hpv-cancers](https://on.nyc.gov/prevent-hpv-cancers)
- Talking to Parents About HPV Vaccine: [on.nyc.gov/hpv-vaccine-parents](https://on.nyc.gov/hpv-vaccine-parents)

For more information about HPV, visit [nyc.gov/health/hpv](https://nyc.gov/health/hpv).

### AAPD, ADA and CDC

These resources may also help you counsel youth and young adults about HPV:

- The AAPD’s policy on HPV vaccinations at [aapd.org/media/Policies\\_Guidelines/P\\_HP\\_Vaccinations.pdf](https://aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_HP_Vaccinations.pdf)
- The ADA’s webpage on the HPV vaccine and oral health at [mouthhealthy.org/en/az-topics/h/hpv-vaccine](https://mouthhealthy.org/en/az-topics/h/hpv-vaccine)
- The CDC’s child and adolescent immunization schedule at [cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html#note-hpv](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html#note-hpv)

