

# NCI-Designated Cancer Centers Endorse Goal of Eliminating HPV-Related Cancers

Cancers caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV) are a significant public health problem. The National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer centers fully endorse the goal of eliminating cancers caused by HPV through gender-neutral HPV vaccination and evidence-based cancer screening. These practices offer a rare opportunity to prevent 12,000 cervical cancers and nearly 40,000 other HPV-related cancers (oropharyngeal, anal, penile, vulvar, and vaginal cancers) among men and women annually in the United States.

An effective and safe vaccine is available that prevents the large majority of cancer-causing HPV infections. In addition, healthcare providers can use proven methods to screen for and treat cervical pre-cancers.

Unfortunately, HPV vaccination completion rates across the U.S. remain low. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 49.5 percent of girls and only 37.5 percent of boys, ages 13-17 years, in the U.S. completed the vaccine series in 2016. These rates are significantly lower than those for other recommended adolescent vaccinations and fall well below the nation's goal of 80 percent coverage by the end of this decade (U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Healthy People 2020 objective).

Increased HPV vaccination rates combined with appropriate cervical cancer screening measures could soon eliminate cervical cancer, with other HPV-related cancers in males and females to follow. Therefore, as national leaders in cancer research and cancer care, we issue the following Call to Action in alignment with the nation's Healthy People 2020 goals:

- Vaccination of more than 80 percent of males and females ages 13-15 by 2020;
- Screen 93 percent of age-eligible females for cervical cancer by 2020; and
- Provide prompt follow up and proper treatment of females who screen positive for high grade cervical pre-cancerous lesions.

In addition, we strongly encourage:

- Young men and women up to age 26, who were not previously vaccinated, to complete the recommended HPV vaccine series;
- Health care providers to make clear and strong recommendations for HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening; and
- The health care community to educate parents, guardians, community members, and colleagues about the goal of eliminating cancers caused by HPV in the US.

High HPV vaccination rates combined with cervical cancer screening and treatment will result in the elimination of cervical cancer in the near future and elimination of other HPV-related cancers thereafter.

The HPV vaccine PREVENTS CANCER. Make sure your loved ones are vaccinated and protected. More information is available from the [CDC](http://www.cdc.gov).

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