



Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department

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Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a sexually transmitted disease known to cause a number of cancers in both women and men. There are over 40 types of HPV and it is estimated that over 79 million Americans are infected with some type of HPV. 14 million new infections occur every year.

The HPV vaccine prevents infection of the most harmful types of HPV and can protect people from the cancers caused by HPV and genital warts. Research has shown that giving the vaccine earlier produces a higher immune response, making the vaccine more effective in preventing infection. Since the vaccination first became recommended, there has been a 56% decrease in HPV infection among teenage girls. A recent study also indicates a decrease in the number of precancers of the cervix among young women.

The Health Department, following Centers for Disease Control and American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations, strongly encourages youth to receive the HPV vaccine when they are 11 and 12 years old as part of their 6th grade school immunizations. Like the meningococcal vaccine, it is not required, but can be given at the same time as the required TDaP vaccine. Additionally, teens who have not yet been vaccinated should also get the HPV vaccine.

Shawano County lags behind in HPV vaccination coverage. In 2013, 22% of 13-17 year olds completed the three dose vaccination series. The Wisconsin average is 45%. There is also a significant gender gap in coverage—girls are more likely to be offered and receive the HPV vaccine. Only 5% of adolescent boys in Shawano County completed the series in 2013.

As a parent, it is important to make health decisions that protect your child from disease and promote their wellbeing. If you are not sure about having your child get the HPV vaccine or have more questions, please contact the Health Department or talk to your medical provider. The Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department offers the HPV vaccine to individuals not covered by insurance. Your regular doctor will also be able to provide the HPV vaccine.

We appreciate you taking the time to learn more about the HPV vaccine and your consideration in protecting your child for the future.

Sincerely,

Jaime Bodden, MPH MSW
Health Officer

For more information about HPV and frequently asked questions about the vaccine, go to www.cdc.gov/hpv/index/html.