

Suburban Pediatrics, Inc.

FAQs about the HPV Vaccine for Boys

What is HPV? HPV stands for Human Papillomavirus, a viral infection that causes genital warts in males and females. More importantly, 4 strains of the HPV virus are known to cause cancer in both men and women. The virus is spread by sexual contact and people who contract the virus often show no symptoms.

What types of cancer does the HPV virus cause? In females, HPV is responsible for causing cancer of the cervix. In males, certain strains of HPV cause mouth, throat, anal, and penile cancers. Each year, the HPV virus causes about 7000 cases of cancer in males. This equates to 1 in every 286 men.

How Does the Vaccine Prevent Cancer? The HPV vaccine is made from a single protein from 4 strains of the Human Papillomavirus virus. The vaccine creates antibodies that prevent the 4 strains of infection which are known to cause cancer. The vaccine is given in a series of 3 injections. The second dose is given 2 months after the first and the third dose is given 6 months after the first. (The second and third shots can be scheduled as “nurse only” visits.) The vaccine cannot cause HPV or cancer.

At What Age Should My Son Receive the HPV

Vaccine? The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that all boys between the ages of 11 and 22 years old receive the HPV vaccine. The vaccine is most effective when administered before the patient becomes sexually active. Studies show that antibody responses are highest when the vaccine is administered between 9 to 15 years of age.

Will My Insurance Cover the HPV Vaccine for Males?

Most insurance companies cover the HPV vaccine under routine well-child care benefits. If your health plan provides coverage for routine immunizations, the HPV vaccine should be covered as well. Your individual policy may limit well-child benefits or apply a deductible, so please contact your insurance company for a detailed description of coverage for the HPV vaccine.