

# Cancer Prevention Through HPV Vaccination: A Dental Provider's Role

## Education Through Teledentistry

In light of recent changes to care delivery due to COVID-19, teledentistry is becoming more common. It is not only used for increasing access to dental care, but also for education purposes, reaching more people of all ages in all geographic regions.

One topic that oral health providers can include in their teledentistry approach is Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and the HPV vaccine. As an oral health provider, you play a critical role in patient education and recommending HPV vaccination. You are more likely than medical providers to see patients of the target age group (ages 9-12 and parents) for the HPV vaccine. Recent studies show that dental providers are becoming the next line of prevention for HPV-related cancers.

## Why does it matter?

The HPV vaccine is a cancer prevention vaccine which is highly effective and proven to help protect against six cancers including oropharyngeal cancer in men and women.

**Oropharyngeal cancer diagnoses exceed 53,000 annually in the US, killing one person every hour.**

It is important that early detection, screenings, and preventive measures be used to increase chances of survival.

## HPV Cancer Prevention Starts With You



**Kids aged from 9-18 typically see a dentist twice yearly, which is often more than they see their primary care provider.**



**Studies show that a patient who receives a recommendation from a provider is 4-5 times more likely to receive the vaccine.**



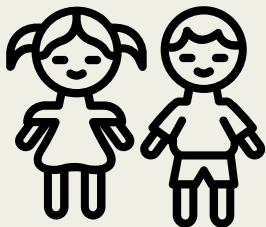
**Families want to hear from a trusted health professional and often have long-term relationships with their dental health provider.**

## Oral Health Care Providers Should:

- Educate patients, parents, and guardians on the health consequences of Oral and Oropharyngeal Cancers (OOPC) and the relationship between HPV and OOPC.
- Counsel patients, parents, and guardians regarding the HPV vaccine.
- Routinely examine patients for oral signs of changes consistent with OOPC.

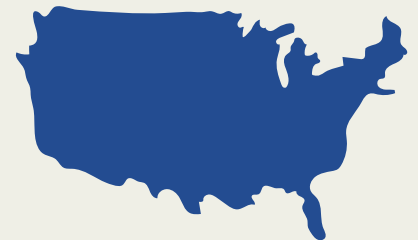
## Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Facts

The vaccine is recommended for both boys and girls starting at the age of **9** or **10**



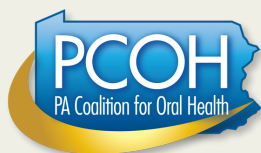
HPV is thought to cause **70%** of oropharyngeal cancers in the US.

The incidence of OPC has overtaken that of cervical cancer.



**When children receive the HPV vaccine by age 12, over 90% of HPV-related cancers can be prevented. You can give them a chance at a future free from HPV-related cancers.**

## For More Information:



*Leading Change for Oral  
Health in Pennsylvania*

[www.paoralhealth.org](http://www.paoralhealth.org)

Cancer Prevention Through HPV Vaccination: An Action Guide for Dental Health Care Providers - <http://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/DENTAL-Action-Guide-WEB.pdf>

American Cancer Society Facts for Providers - <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/hpv-vacs-just-the-facts-for-providers.pdf>