

**TO:** EZIZ Users  
**FROM:** CDPH  
**SUBJECT:** New 2-Dose HPV Vaccine Schedule for Preteens  
**DATE:** 11/2/16

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## **ACIP votes to Recommend a 2-Dose HPV Schedule for 11-12 Year Olds: What Providers Need to Know**

At its October 2016 meeting, the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend that 11-to 12-year olds receive two doses of HPV vaccine at least 6 months apart, instead of three doses, to protect against cancers caused by HPV. Providers may follow this recommendation now or await the upcoming written recommendation in the CDC publication *MMWR* (anticipated within a couple of months). Insurance companies have up to a year to adapt reimbursement policies accordingly. More details will be available in the forthcoming [HPV vaccine VFC resolution](#).

### **Who is affected by the new 2-dose schedule?**

Boys and girls who have initiated the HPV series at 9 through 14 years of age qualify for the new two-dose HPV immunization schedule, with the second dose recommended at 6-12 months after the first dose. The minimum acceptable interval between dose 1 and dose 2 is 5 months. There is no maximum interval between doses; a second dose given more than 12 months since the first dose of HPV vaccine does not need to be repeated.

### **Why is this change being proposed to the HPV vaccination schedule?**

- § Data from clinical trials showed that two doses of HPV vaccine given to younger adolescents ages 9 through 14 years produced an immune response that was similar or higher than the response in young adults ages 16 through 26 years who received three doses.
- § Study data suggest long-lasting protection when younger adolescents receive 2 doses of HPV vaccine or when older adolescents and young adults receive 3 doses.

### **Who should still receive a three-dose series of HPV vaccine?**

Males and females

- § Starting the HPV series at age 15 years or older, or
- § With immunocompromising conditions, regardless of age, or
- § Who have received only two doses of HPV vaccine less than 5 months apart, regardless of age.

### **How may I explain this change to parents?**

- § This recommendation makes it easier for parents to protect their children from HPV and the cancers it causes, if they start the 2-dose series on time. Not only is

the immune response better at a younger age, but their child will need three doses if they wait until their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday or older.

- § This is the best time to get vaccinated against several types of cancer. We have the best HPV vaccine we've ever had (9-valent) and now your child only needs 2 shots instead of 3, if vaccinated on schedule. It's a win-win. And you may prevent your child from getting cancer later in life.
- § The change was made based on science showing that the immune response of 2 shots given 6-12 months apart in kids 9 through 14 years was the same or better as 3 shots in adolescent and young adult women ages 16 through 26 years, for whom the vaccine was found to be highly effective in preventing cancer-causing HPV infections and pre-cancers.
- § The immune response in older teens and young adults is not as strong as that in younger adolescents through age 14 years, so adolescents and young adults ages 15 through 26 years will need to complete all 3 HPV shots to get the best cancer protection.
- § If your child's 2 shots were given fewer than 5 months apart, then your child will need to complete the 3-dose series even if they are less than 15 years old. This is because studies now show that it takes time in between shots to build the best immune protection against HPV-related cancers.

For more information, go to [CDC's preteen vaccines website](#).