



## HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion Winner

The California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch is proud to announce that Dr. Raymond Perry has been selected as the 2019 *HPV Is Cancer Prevention Champion* for California. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI), and the American Cancer Society (ACS) have partnered to create this award program to recognize clinicians, clinics, practices, groups, and health systems that are above and beyond to foster HPV vaccination among adolescents in their community. Every year, the program honors up to one Champion from all 50 U.S. states, eight U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States, and the District of Columbia.

Dr. Raymond Perry is a pediatrician and Director of Hubert H. Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center in Los Angeles County where over 40,000 patients are served. Since November of 2018, Dr. Perry has been working closely with the American Cancer Society to design and implement a quality improvement project. As part of this project, early this year he established the first-ever HPV Task Force of clinical champions to address barriers and implement systems practice changes in his clinic and other participating Los Angeles Department of Health Services sites. HPV vaccination rates across all sites increased an average of 6 percentage points in just the first four months of the project.

HPV vaccine is important because it protects against cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. HPV is a very common virus; nearly 79 million people are currently infected in the United States. Every year in the United States, nearly 35,000 women and men are estimated to be diagnosed with a cancer caused by HPV infection. HPV vaccination could prevent more than 90% of these cancers—more than 32,000 cases every year—from ever developing. Both boys and girls should get two doses of the HPV vaccine series when they are 11 or 12 years old. The HPV vaccine series can be started as early as age 9.

Dr. Raymond Perry is an inspiration to everyone who is committed to improving the health of our boys and girls in California. We are pleased and honored to congratulate Dr. Perry on this well-deserved award.

To read Dr. Perry's profile on the CDC's website, and to learn more about *HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion Award* program, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/champions/>.