

Why is the HPV Vaccine right for me?

It's Effective

Three doses over the course of 6 months provides protection from four important strains of HPV - two that can cause cancer and two associated with genital warts. These strains are responsible for the overwhelming share of HPV associated cancers – including anal and head and neck cancers in men. They are also responsible for 90% of genital warts. Getting started early is important – like most vaccines – it is ideal to be protected before you are first exposed. Also, the younger you are when you receive the vaccine - the more robust your body's response!

It's Necessary

HPV is very common, and there is a high chance you will be exposed at some point during your lifetime. Unfortunately, men have a more difficult time clearing the virus, and the cancers that are linked to HPV are difficult to catch early. The incidence of several HPV associated cancers has increased in recent years, a trend routine vaccination will hopefully reverse. By receiving the vaccine, you are also less likely to transmit a potentially dangerous infection to your partners.

It's Safe

Vaccines go through many tests before they are approved for the general public, and the HPV vaccine has been proven safe in many clinical trials. Ongoing monitoring since it was first approved in 2006 has not revealed any major side effects. As with most vaccines, some patients have experienced fainting spells and soreness at the injection site lasting 1-2 days.

It's Recommended

At Stowe Family Practice we strongly recommend the HPV vaccine for all our patients. HPV associated cancers are some of the few that can be prevented by a simple series of shot. We are confident in supporting the recommendations of both the Vermont Department of Health as well as the Center for Disease Control.

More Information can be found at the Vermont State Department of Health website:

<http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/std/HPV>

