

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Melissa Propp, RN at nurse@swhealth.ne.gov or call 308-345-4223

HPV? What's That?

The Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV) is a virus that is passed from one person to another during skin to skin contact with and infected part of the body. It can also be spread through sexual contact. HPV can be spread even when someone with the virus does not have any symptoms.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): HPV infections are so common that nearly all men and women will get at least one type of HPV at some point in their lives. Most people never know that they have been infected and may give HPV to a sex partner without knowing it. Nearly 80 million Americans are currently infected with some type of HPV. About 14 million people in the United States become newly infected each year. There are many different types of HPV. Some types can cause health problems including genital warts and cancers.

The American Cancer Society recommends that girls and boys begin getting the HPV vaccine series at the age of 11-12 because the vaccine causes a better immune response at this age than during the later teenage years. Children are also likely still seeing a doctor regularly and getting other vaccinations at this age.

The HPV vaccine is recommended during the 7th grade immunization bundle which includes; Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis), Meningococcal, and HPV.

For over 10 years the HPV vaccine has been recommended for children age 9 through age 26 years. However, during the June 23-24, 2019 Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) meeting, recommendations were changed to include persons 27 years of age through 45 years of age who have not been adequately vaccinated. The decision to vaccinate after the age of 26 should be based on shared clinical decision making with your health care provider. You should check with insurance provider about coverage prior to starting the vaccine after age 26.

HPV vaccine given at older ages is less effective in lowering the cancer risk according to the American Cancer Society.

“For the vaccine to work best, getting the HPV vaccine before a person comes into contact with the virus is important”. States Melissa Propp public health nurse from Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department.

If you have questions about the HPV vaccination or any other immunization, call Melissa Propp, RN Public Health Nurse at (308) 345-4223.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties. You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter or

view the website at www.swhealth.ne.gov. Call (308) 345-4223 or stop by the office at 404 West 10th Street in McCook.

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