

HEALTH UPDATE



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REGION IV PUBLIC HEALTH

Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum
counties and Cowlitz Tribe

TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers

Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the following Region IV health officers:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412

Skamania County Community Health, (509) 427-3850

Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, (360) 414-5599

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, (360) 795-6207

Alert categories:
Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

ACIP recommends 2-dose schedule for HPV vaccination in some children

We are sharing the following letter to providers from the Washington Department of Health. Requests for additional information may be directed to immunenurses@doh.wa.gov.

October 27, 2016

Dear provider,

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices voted this month to recommend a 2-dose schedule for HPV vaccination in some children. The recommendation was immediately [approved](#) by CDC Director Tom Frieden. We expect the final recommendation to be published in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) in December.

We are very excited about this change! We have struggled the past few years in Washington to increase our HPV vaccine coverage rates. A 2-dose recommendation gives us the opportunity to promote on-time vaccination, because it means fewer doses and better protection from life-threatening cancers.

Two doses of HPV vaccine given at least 6 months apart have been shown to provide safe, effective and long-lasting protection when given to adolescents aged 9 through 14 years. Reducing the number of shots and trips to the doctor will make it easier for parents to get their child protected.

Providers may now use clinical judgement to start implementing a 2-dose HPV vaccine schedule, using the criteria below.

- Continue to give the first HPV vaccine dose at 11-12 years old (the series may be started as young as 9 years).
- If the first HPV vaccine dose was given before the teen turned 15 years, only one more dose is needed and should be given at least 6 months after the first dose.

Some children will still require 3 doses of HPV vaccine:

- Adolescents ages 9 through 14 years who have already received two doses of HPV vaccine less than 5 months apart (the minimum interval) will still require a third dose.
- Teens and young adults who start the series at ages 15 through 26 years still need three doses of HPV vaccine.
- Three doses are still recommended for people ages 9 through 26 years with weakened immune systems.

We are working to update materials, guidance, and tools to reflect the new recommendation. This includes changing the forecaster in the Washington State Immunization Information System (IIS), which predicts which vaccines a patient needs. We do not have an exact date yet for an updated forecast in the IIS, but it will take several months to make this change.

Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES

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Thank you for your partnership.

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