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PROTECT YOUR PRETEENS TODAY FROM HPV CANCERS TOMORROW
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HPV vaccination is recommended for preteen girls and boys at age 11 to 12.

If your son or daughter hasn’t started or finished the HPV vaccine series yet, it’s not too late! Now is a good time to ask their doctor or nurse about vaccines for your preteens and teens.

HPV is short for human papillomavirus. In the U.S. each year, there are about 17,600 women and 9,300 men affected by HPV cancers. In both women and men, HPV can cause anal cancer and mouth/throat (oropharyngeal) cancer. It can also cause cancers of the cervix, vulva and vagina in women, and cancer of the penis in men. Most of the HPV infections that cause these cancers could be prevented with vaccination.

The HPV vaccine has a very good safety record. Nearly 90 million doses have been distributed in the US since the vaccine was introduced, and no serious safety concerns have been linked to HPV vaccination. Possible side effects after HPV vaccination are generally mild and go away quickly, such as pain, redness, or swelling in the arm where the shot was given.

Dr. Lee Smith, Monongalia County Health Department County Physician, said that utilization of the HPV vaccine comes down to a simple question, “If you could get a vaccine that would prevent your son or daughter from getting cancer, wouldn't you get it?”

For more information about vaccines recommended for preteens, visit:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/for-parents.html or call the MCHD at 304-598-5119.

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