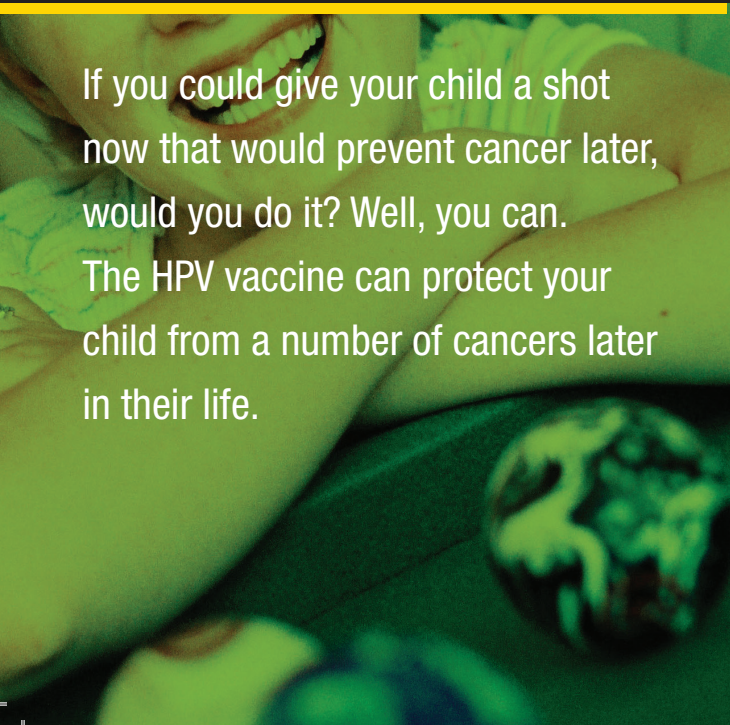




GETTING YOUR CHILD THE  
HPV VACCINE NOW HELPS

**PREVENT**  
SEVERAL CANCERS LATER



If you could give your child a shot  
now that would prevent cancer later,  
would you do it? Well, you can.  
The HPV vaccine can protect your  
child from a number of cancers later  
in their life.

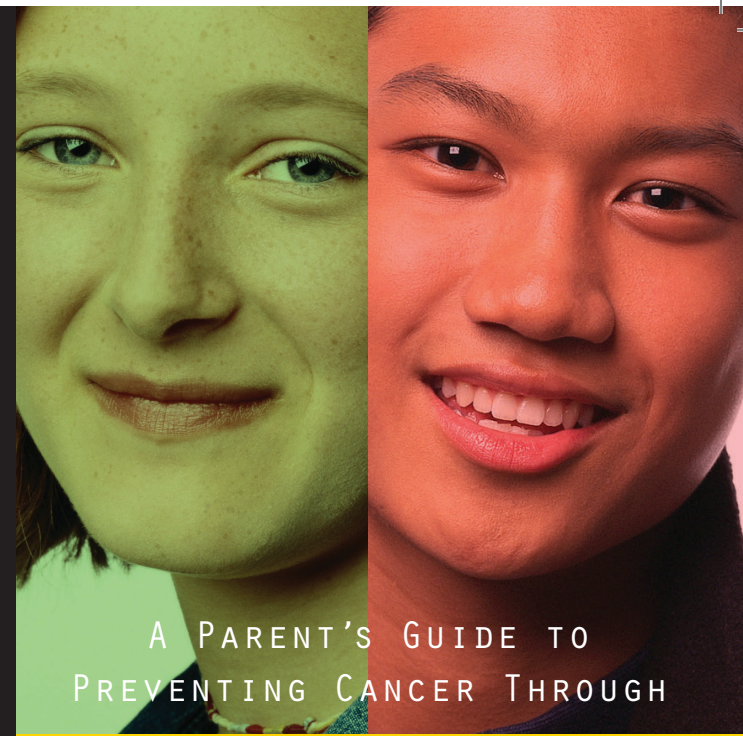


To learn about how HPV is spread, cancers that are caused  
by HPV and what the vaccine protects against, visit:

[MICHIGAN.GOV/HPV](https://michigan.gov/hpv)

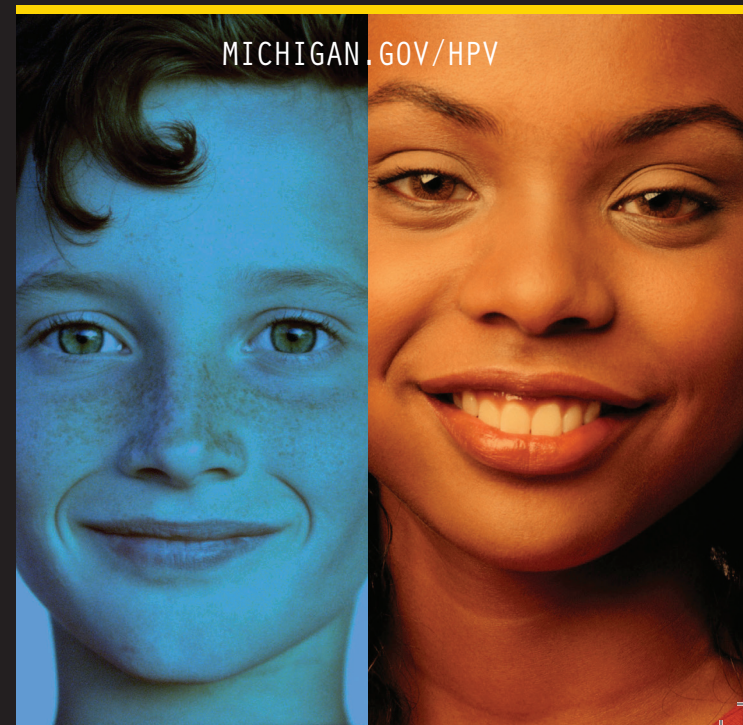
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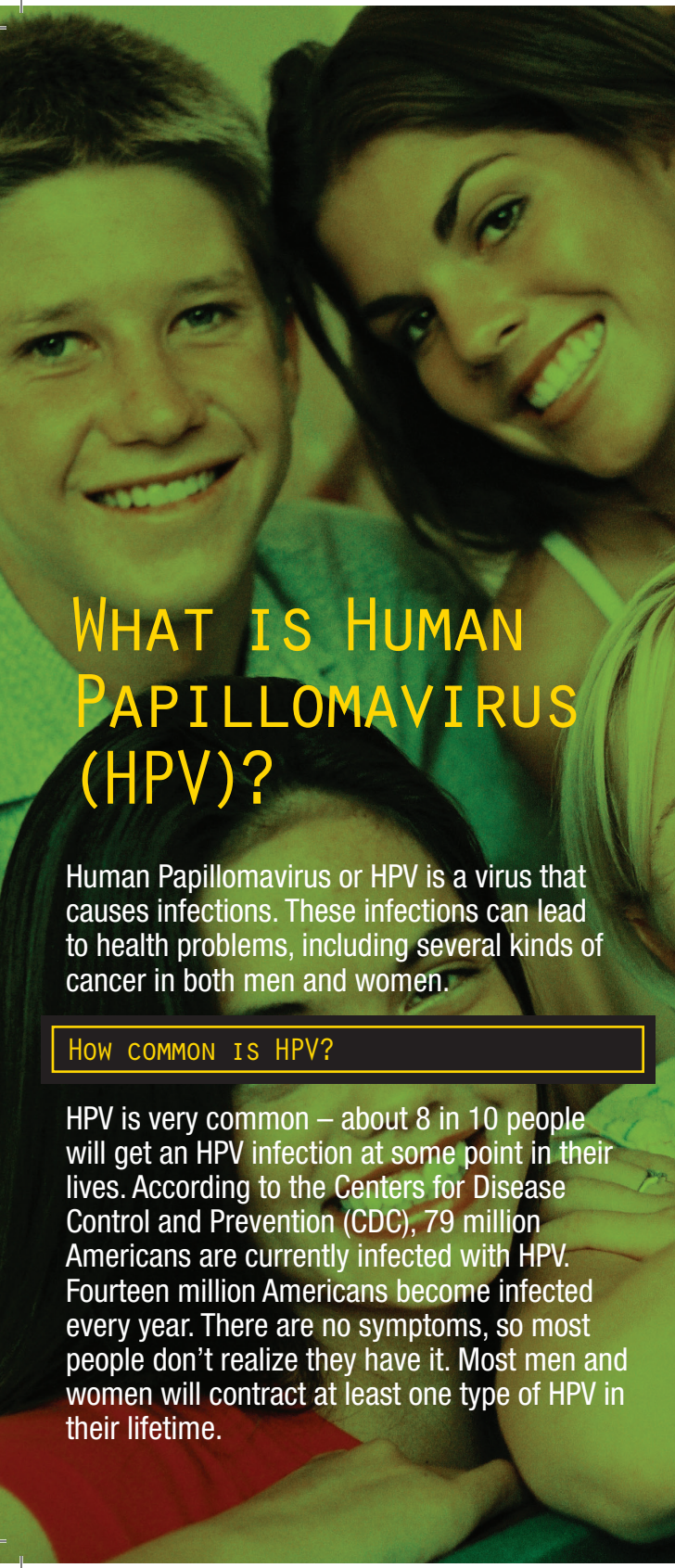
A PARENT'S GUIDE TO  
PREVENTING CANCER THROUGH

**HPV VACCINATION**



[MICHIGAN.GOV/HPV](https://michigan.gov/hpv)





## WHAT IS HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)?

Human Papillomavirus or HPV is a virus that causes infections. These infections can lead to health problems, including several kinds of cancer in both men and women.

### HOW COMMON IS HPV?

HPV is very common – about 8 in 10 people will get an HPV infection at some point in their lives. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 79 million Americans are currently infected with HPV. Fourteen million Americans become infected every year. There are no symptoms, so most people don't realize they have it. Most men and women will contract at least one type of HPV in their lifetime.

### CAN HPV INFECTION BE TREATED?

- No, there is no treatment or cure for the HPV infection
- In most cases, the body fights off the virus naturally
- If the body does not fight off the virus, there is a risk for cancer

### WHAT IS THE HPV VACCINE?

The HPV vaccine:

- Protects against several strains of HPV that cause cancer
- Is licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for both males and females

### IS THE HPV VACCINE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE?

- The vaccine is highly effective in protecting against HPV types that cause cancer
- Vaccines go through years of safety testing before FDA licensing
- Vaccines are continually monitored for safety and effectiveness
- Millions of doses have been distributed since 2006, with no serious side effects reported
- Common side effects include pain where the shot is given, fever, headache and nausea

### WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD GET THE HPV VACCINE?

- The vaccine works best when given at age 11-12 years
- Depending on when your child started the series, they may only need two doses to be fully protected
- People with compromised immune systems need three doses even if they start the series before age 15
- It's important to get all recommended doses

### WHY VACCINATE AGAINST HPV AT 11-12 YEARS OF AGE?

- The vaccine produces better immunity when given at a younger age
- Like all vaccines, the HPV vaccine works better if all doses are given before exposure to the viruses
- Most men and women will get at least one type of HPV in their lifetime

### HOW CAN I GET MY CHILD THE HPV VACCINE?

- Contact your local health care provider or county health department to find out when and where you can get your child the HPV vaccine
- The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program provides no-cost or low-cost vaccines (including HPV vaccine) to eligible children 18 years of age or younger
- Help reduce the risk of your child getting cancer later; get the HPV vaccine now

[MICHIGAN.GOV/HPV](http://MICHIGAN.GOV/HPV)