

Policy Position:

Adopted by the MOASH Board of Directors



michigan organization on
adolescent sexual health

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination



What we stand for:

The Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH) recommends that young people receive the HPV vaccine, the first dose of which should be administered between ages 9-11. While HPV vaccination is not currently included in the list of immunizations required for school entry in Michigan,¹ MOASH supports its addition to the mandated childhood immunization policy. We also support the actions taken by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to encourage vaccination in accordance with state law and subject to applicable medical, religious, or other exemptions.

¹ Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Immunization (2019, December). *Required Childhood Immunizations for Michigan School Settings* [PDF document]. Retrieved from https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/School_Req_for_Schools_553548_7.pdf

Why we stand for this:

- MOASH supports health efforts that focus first on prevention. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States and the second leading cause of cancer in those with a cervix. When the vaccine is administered as recommended (receiving the full vaccine series prior to becoming sexually active), the HPV vaccine is the safest and most effective way to protect against HPV-related disease.²
- Leading professional medical organizations including the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) support HPV vaccination for cancer prevention.³
- Receiving the HPV vaccination does not increase sexual activity among young people (a common misperception that has been a barrier to improving vaccination rates). There are no additional barriers to receiving the HPV vaccine. As with all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), HPV vaccines are covered by insurance or via Medicaid and other programs (e.g., Vaccines for Children).
- HPV vaccination is one aspect of a more comprehensive approach to ensuring sexual and reproductive health that should be incorporated along with, not in the place of, education about STI transmission and contraceptive use.

Data and statistics:

- HPV can cause cervical, vaginal, throat, penile, and anal cancers. HPV also causes genital warts. Unlike other sexually transmitted infections, there is currently no easy way to screen for HPV or to find out someone's HPV status. There is no cure for HPV.⁴
- Since the HPV vaccine was introduced in 2006, cases of HPV decreased by 56% among female teenagers 14-19 years of age who had received the vaccine compared to their peers who did not receive the vaccine.⁵
- In Michigan, as of December 31, 2015, only 31% of teenage girls and 20.4% of teenage boys ages 13–17 years had received the full dose HPV vaccination series; 54% of teenage girls and 38.8% of teenage boys reported starting the HPV series but never, or not yet, completing it.^{6*}
- Data shows that a healthcare provider recommendation is the single best predictor of vaccination. Recent studies have found that a patient who receives a provider recommendation is four to five times more likely to receive the HPV vaccine.
- Some states have passed legislation that mandates HPV vaccination for students in middle school.⁷
- Per the Michigan School Code § 380.1177a, schools are required to provide information about HPV and the HPV vaccine if they provide information on “immunizations, infectious disease, medications, and other school health issues.”⁸

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017, Jan 3). *Human Papillomavirus (HPV)*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/stdfact-hpv.htm>

³ Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (2016, Jan). *Michigan HPV Vaccination Snapshot: Pharmacies* [PDF document]. Retrieved from http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/HPV_Snapshot_Pharmacy_512272_7.pdf

⁴ National Cancer Institute (2016, Nov 2). *Human Papillomavirus Vaccines*. Retrieved from <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/infectious-agents/hpv-vaccine-fact-sheet>

⁵ Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (2014, Feb). *A Parent's Guide to Preteen and Teen HPV Vaccination* [PDF document]. Retrieved from https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/HPV_Factsheet_BW_06-26-2013_427031_7.pdf

⁶ Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (2016). *Give a strong recommendation for HPV vaccine to increase uptake!* [PDF document]. Retrieved from http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Recommmend_HP_V_vaccination_MDHHS_516009_7.pdf *The authors reporting this statistic use the terms “girls” and “boys;” however, MOASH recognizes that this may not accurately reflect or capture other individuals who have a cervix but do not identify as a girl, or individuals who have a penis but do not identify as a boy.

⁷ Immunization Action Coalition (2016, March 9). *State Information: HPV Mandates for Children in Secondary Schools*. Retrieved from <http://www.immunize.org/laws/hpv.asp>

⁸ Revised School Code, 1976 PA 451, MCL § 380.1177a. Retrieved from

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(uu0gytyryygyysp0mxziwz1z\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-380-1177a](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(uu0gytyryygyysp0mxziwz1z))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-380-1177a)