



Indiana ranks 33rd in the country for vaccinating our adolescents against HPV. We need your help.



June 1, 2020

Dear Indiana Medical Provider:

In partnership with the Indiana Immunization Coalition and the American Cancer Society, the Indiana State Department of Health and multiple community organizations we are working to improve and enhance a prevention campaign with the goal of reducing the cancer burden in Indiana through increased prevention.

This initiative focuses on the human papilloma virus (HPV) and increasing the vaccination rate throughout the state of Indiana. HPV infection can cause cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers in women and penile cancer in men. HPV can also cause anal cancer, oropharyngeal cancer, and genital warts in men and women.

The HPV vaccine is cancer prevention, but vaccination rates continue to fall far below rates of other routinely recommended vaccines for adolescents across the state. Indiana is 15th in the country for vaccinating our adolescents with MenACWY but 33rd for vaccinating against HPV. That's why we need your help. As a provider, you are empowered to assist in cancer prevention efforts by talking to parents or guardians about the importance of the vaccine and reducing the risk of HPV related cancers.

Research consistently shows that a provider's recommendation to vaccinate is the single most influential factor in convincing parents to vaccinate their children. Studies show simply changing the wording used to introduce the HPV vaccine makes a tremendous difference in outcomes. Offer a Same Day, Same Way recommendation during the visit. For example, **"Your child needs three vaccines today: Tdap, HPV, and meningococcal."**

With your continued participation in this initiative, together we can reduce the burden of cancer in Indiana. Thank you for your time and attention to this important initiative!