



June 2020

Dear Parents of Rising Sixth Graders:

Since 2007 after the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation regarding updated school immunization requirements, **the *Code of Virginia* has required girls entering the sixth grade to receive the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series.** It is also recommended by the CDC that boys of the same age receive the vaccine.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted or limited services offered by local health departments and providers, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that parents proceed with well-child physicals and immunizations through their local health care providers. Planning ahead to complete state requirements for school enrollment will ensure a smooth and safe start when schools reopen.

Please review the information provided with this letter. After reading this information, as the parent or guardian, you may choose for your child not to receive the HPV Vaccine. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) strongly recommends that children be vaccinated per CDC recommendations. Please contact your health care provider to determine when your child can receive the vaccine series and discuss any questions you may have. Please provide documentation of the vaccine to your child's school in order to update your child's immunization record prior to the first day of school.

Thank you.

TAKE A SHOT AT CANCER!

Protect your child from HPV-related cancers by vaccinating.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is easily spread and most people don't know they have it. HPV causes several types of cancer.



90%

of cervical cancers are caused by HPV



70%

of mouth & throat cancers may be linked to HPV

DID YOU KNOW?

4 out of 5

PEOPLE WILL GET HPV IN THEIR LIVES

The HPV vaccine protects your child's future. The **vaccine...**

Prevents

6

types of **cancer**

Data continues to show it is



Is recommended with other routine adolescent vaccinations



HPV can be prevented in both girls and boys through **vaccination**. Both should complete the vaccine series by age **13**.



75.6%

of VA teens have started the HPV series

Most Virginians are taking the step to protect their families

Talk to your child's provider today about preventing cancer!

www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/

www.cdc.gov/HPV

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

To protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.