

Mayo Clinic Minute: Don't skip your kid's HPV vaccine

Video	Audio
	Sitting in a doctor's office can be scary for anyone, especially for a kid waiting for a vaccine. But not as scary as HPV.
Nipunie Rajapakse, M.D. Pediatric Infectious Diseases Mayo Clinic	"The scary thing about this virus is that it also is a virus that can cause cancer."
	HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection. About 85% of all people will become infected at some point in their lifetime.
	"Thankfully, we have a great vaccine. The HPV vaccine can prevent 90% of cancers caused by HPV virus."
	The vaccine is recommended for 11- and 12-year-old boys and girls. And it can be given during a well-child visit.
	"You want to vaccinate kids before they're ever exposed to this virus. Once you are you've been infected with the virus, the vaccine is no longer effective in preventing infection with that strain of virus."
	Dr. Rajapakse says the vaccine can be given to those as young as 9 and up to age 45.
	"This is a really effective, really safe vaccine that is unique because it is a vaccine that prevents cancer."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Joel Streed.