

**FOR THE LOVE OF A DAUGHTER**  
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**Anyone with a daughter would hate to hear the news one day that their daughter has cervical cancer which could have been prevented by a simple vaccine. In today's world this could be a reality in many homes, as 70% of cervical cancer cases are caused by HPV types 16 or 18, which the HPV vaccine targets. The vaccine also protects against the two types of HPV that cause approximately 90% of genital warts. Please consider getting your daughter vaccinated against cervical cancer, if you have not already taken this step.**

**When should my daughter receive this vaccine?**

**Preferably, before she is sexually active with girls entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade being the target age. It appears the vaccine is more effective when administered before the onset of sexual activity. However she can receive the vaccine between the ages of 9 and 26.**

**What else should my daughter know to decrease her risk of HPV even with the vaccine?**

**The way to completely prevent HPV is abstinence. Limit your number of sexual partners and avoid sex with people who have had many sexual partners. If you are sexually active have a pap test annually, as most cervical cancers are diagnosed in women who have never had a pap test or who haven't had a pap test in 5 years or more.**

**Please speak with your health care professional if you have further questions regarding the HPV vaccine.**

**Information from this article was obtained in part from the Indiana Comprehensive Cancer Control at [www.indianacancer.org](http://www.indianacancer.org).**