

ANSWER KEY – PRE/POST SURVEY

1. HPV is a rare, sexually transmitted disease.

Correct Answer: FALSE

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. About 79 million Americans are infected with HPV, and approximately 14 million become infected each year. There are more than 200 types of HPV. More than 40 of them can be passed on through sexual contact. Some types of HPV, primarily HPV 16 and HPV 18, can cause cervical cancer, while other types can cause genital warts or warts on other parts of the body, such as the hands. HPV can also lead to cancers of the vagina, vulva, anus, penis, rectum, and oropharynx (mouth/throat).

2. You will know you have HPV because you will have immediate symptoms.

Correct Answer: FALSE

Most people never know they have HPV. However, if you see small, fleshy, cauliflower-like bumps around your genitals, you may have one type of HPV that causes warts. Genital warts can be confused with other skin problems that are not sexually transmitted. Genital warts do not cause cancer. Pap tests and HPV testing can help determine whether you have HPV and if it is the type that puts you at risk for cancer.

3. You can only get HPV through vaginal sex.

Correct Answer: FALSE

HPV is spread through some kinds of genital or skin-to-skin contact. This includes vaginal sex, oral sex, anal sex, or genital-on-genital touching. HPV can be spread through opposite-sex or same-sex partners.

4. How can you protect yourself against HPV?

Correct Answer: ALL THE ABOVE

Latex condoms may lower your chances of getting or spreading HPV if you use them correctly during every sex act from beginning to end. But HPV can infect areas that aren't covered by a condom. If you or your partner has genital warts, you should not have sex until they're treated. Skin-on-skin contact is how the virus is spread. You also can protect yourself by limiting the number of sex partners you have. And the HPV vaccine can help prevent some types of HPV that lead to cervical and other cancers, and genital warts. The vaccine is recommended for males and females between the ages of 9 and 26.

5. What type(s) of cancer can be caused by HPV?

Correct Answer: ALL THE ABOVE

Cervical cancer is the most common cancer caused by an HPV virus. Each year, about 12,000 women in the U.S. get cervical cancer. Nearly all those cases are associated with HPV. Beyond cervical cancer, HPV also causes 7,000 cases of cancer each year in men. HPV is also the most common cause of genital warts. About 1 in 100 sexually active adults has genital warts at any one time. If you're a woman, it's important to have regular Pap tests to detect abnormal cells in your cervix. The HPV vaccine, if given correctly, can prevent some types of HPV that lead to cervical, anal, vulvar, and vaginal cancers. Other types of HPV virus can lead to less common cancers, including oral cancer and cancer of the penis or rectum.

6. If you have HPV, but no symptoms, you cannot spread the virus.

Correct Answer: FALSE

You can spread HPV even if you have no symptoms. Most people don't have symptoms of HPV infection and can pass it to someone else.

7. The HPV vaccine *prevents* HPV; it does not cure HPV.

Correct Answer: TRUE

The HPV vaccine prevents HPV which prevents associated cancers and genital warts. The vaccine cannot treat these conditions once they are contracted.

8. How safe do you think the vaccine is that prevents HPV?

(Not safe at all) 1 2 3 4 5 (Very safe)

HPV vaccine has been carefully studied by medical and scientific experts. HPV vaccine has been shown to be very effective and very safe. Like other shots, most side effects are mild, primarily pain or redness in the arm, and should go away quickly. HPV vaccine has not been associated with any long-term side effects. Since 2006, about 80 million doses of HPV vaccine have been distributed in the U.S., and in the years of HPV vaccine safety studies and monitoring, no serious safety concerns have been identified.

9. How important do you think it is for people between the ages of 9-26 to be vaccinated to prevent HPV?

(Not important) 1 2 3 4 5 (Very important)

Vaccinating early, long before exposure, provides the best protection possible, as is the case with measles and other recommended childhood vaccines. Similarly, medical professionals want to vaccinate children well before they get exposed to HPV. However, HPV vaccine is recommended for young women and men through age 26.

10. How likely are you to talk to your *patients* about HPV?

(Not very likely) 1 2 3 4 5 (Very likely)

How likely are you to talk to your/*your child's* doctor about HPV?

(Not very likely) 1 2 3 4 5 (Very likely)

If your office protocol does not include HPV vaccine during routine childhood vaccination schedules, it may be prudent to adjust your office systems to include it.

If you do not know if you have had any or a complete dosage of HPV vaccine, please check with your doctor or your childhood immunization records.

If your doctor has never mentioned that your child should receive the HPV vaccination, it may be prudent to discuss it.

*Questions and answers taken from cdc.gov/hpv and webmd.com.