

# Consider *Your* Local Pharmacy for the HPV Vaccine



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), girls and boys age 11 or 12 should receive two doses of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.<sup>1</sup> Your child will need to receive the first dose from his or her doctor. After that, it may be easier, more convenient and less expensive to visit your local pharmacy for the second dose.

To find a participating pharmacy, search online at the address below or call 1-877-363-1303.

Not every pharmacy offers the HPV vaccine, so make sure to call first. You will want to:

- Verify the days and times the pharmacy offers the vaccine.
- See if there are any restrictions. Although all 50 states authorize pharmacists to administer vaccines, state laws vary on which vaccines may be administered in retail pharmacies.
- Make sure the pharmacy has the HPV vaccine in stock.

When you arrive, ask your pharmacist if he or she can give you a record of the vaccine. That way, you can help your doctor keep your child's health record up to date.

**Set a reminder.** After your child receives the first dose from his or her doctor, the second dose can be at the pharmacy six to 12 months later. Mark your calendar or set a reminder on your phone to make sure your child gets both doses.

**The vaccine is safe and effective.** The vaccine protects against the HPV types that most commonly cause most cervical cancers, as well as some types of throat and genital cancers. To date, more than 57 million doses of HPV vaccine have been given without serious safety concerns.<sup>2</sup>

For more information, visit [www.tricare.mil/vaccines](http://www.tricare.mil/vaccines).

<sup>1</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaccines/HPV/index.html>

## Benefits of Using Retail Pharmacies

- **It's convenient.** Many types of vaccines can be administered quickly and easily in retail pharmacies. Unlike your doctor's office, most pharmacies do not require an appointment.
- **It's covered at no cost.** With TRICARE, CDC recommended vaccines, including the HPV vaccine, are covered at no cost to you. (Note: To get your vaccine at no cost, make sure a pharmacist gives the vaccine and not someone from an in-pharmacy clinic.)
- **It's professional.** Pharmacists have been giving flu shots for years and are experienced in administering vaccines.

