

## Promoting Cervical Cancer Prevention by Incorporating Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Recommendations Into Existing Patient Communications

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that all individuals aged 11–12 years receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer. Your patients may have children in this age range or the vaccination “catch-up” age range (13–26 years). Your patients also may be in the catch-up age range themselves and need the HPV vaccine. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists encourages obstetrician–gynecologists and other gynecologic care providers to take advantage of every occasion to recommend the HPV vaccine for patients and their family members to avoid missed opportunities to vaccinate and promote its importance in helping to prevent cervical cancer.

The sample letter below is intended to help you take advantage of current patient notifications that you already use in your practice as a way to recommend the HPV vaccine for patients and their family members. This wording and design can be adapted to add your logo and practice information. The letter can be used as a printed postcard as shown below or it can be incorporated into patient portal web sites, electronic health records, or both.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am pleased to inform you that your recent Pap test was normal and that your test for high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV, the virus that causes most cases of cervical cancer) was negative. If you have any questions about your Pap test or HPV test, please call and leave a message with the nurse in our office.

As your health care provider, I want to make sure you know that there are safe and effective vaccines available to protect you and your family against HPV infection, which can lead to cancer in males and females. Human papillomavirus vaccines are recommended for all males and females aged 9–26 years to prevent cancer caused by HPV. If you think you or any members of your family need to be vaccinated against HPV, please call a health care provider’s office to schedule an appointment.

If you are younger than 27 years and have not received the HPV vaccine, please contact our office to schedule an appointment today for your first dose. You can find more information on the HPV vaccine at the American College of Obstetrician and Gynecologists’ Immunization for Women web site: [www.immunizationforwomen.org](http://www.immunizationforwomen.org)

Yours sincerely,



The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS



**IMMUNIZATION for WOMEN**  
Immunization Information for Ob-Gyns and Their Patients