

# MEET YOUR MOUTH

## IT'S PART OF YOUR BODY



## Your Mouth and HPV

HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections. It can infect the mouth and throat. And there are some types of HPV that increase the risk for certain head and neck cancers.

HPV is linked with 70% of oral cancers.

It spreads by skin-to-skin contact and through oral sex. To protect yourself from HPV and other oral cancers, use condoms and dental dams to lower the chance of orally transmitted HPV.

Smokers have a higher risk of developing oral HPV. If you're sexually active, you should regularly get tested for STIs.

### HPV Vaccine and Oral Health

The vaccine was created to deter cervical and genital cancers, but it works to fight orally transmitted HPV. Many receive the vaccine in their adolescents.

The Food & Drug Administration has approved the HPV vaccine for those up to age 45. The HPV vaccine is a safe and effective way to reduce the risk for oral HPV infections and the cancers they can cause.

The HPV vaccine has a very good safety record. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reports that more than 170 million doses have been given with no serious safety concerns.

More Information

