



## Vaccines

Give your sex life a shot in the arm! Vaccines can prevent many diseases, including some that are sexually transmitted, like HPV and hepatitis.

One important prevention tool against sexually transmitted infections is vaccination. Currently, vaccines are available to protect against infection with HPV, **hepatitis A and hepatitis B**. Other vaccines are under development, including those for HIV and herpes simplex virus (HSV).

### What is hepatitis B?

**Hepatitis B** virus can be passed on by body fluids (semen, vaginal secretions, and blood) and is most often transmitted through sexual contact. It can also be

contracted when injecting drug users share needles and other injecting equipment.

While hepatitis B can cause a mild illness, it can also be a more serious chronic infection, with complications including cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) and even liver cancer.

Who should get it?

How is it given?

How safe and effective is it?

### What is hepatitis A?

**Hepatitis A** is transmitted primarily through oral contact with feces (oral-fecal contact). This includes contaminated food or water sources and sexual contact, especially oral-anal sex.

Who should get it?

How is it given?

How safe and effective is it?

### What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the name of a group of viruses that infect the skin. There are more than 100 different types of HPV. Certain types of HPV cause warts on the hands or feet, and other types can cause warts on the genitals. Some types of genital HPV may cause genital warts, while other types of genital HPV are linked to abnormal cell changes on the cervix (detected through Pap tests) that can lead to cervical cancer. HPV vaccine can protect against types of HPV that cause most cases of warts and those that cause most cervical cancer.

Who should get it?

How is it given?

How safe and effective is it?

## Why I Vaccinate

Maria Trent, MD, MPH, knows the importance of vaccinating adolescents against HPV. She shares her experiences treating HPV disease and explains why vaccination is “a gift” for our children.



### American Sexual Health Association

ASHA believes that all people have the right to the information and services that will help them to have optimum sexual health. We envision a time when stigma is no longer associated with sexual health and our nation is united in its belief that sexuality is a normal, healthy, and positive aspect of human life.

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