

November 22, 2021

Dear Community Member,

You are receiving this letter to remind you of the importance of getting your child vaccinated against HPV (human papillomavirus). Approximately 35,000 men and women in the US get HPV cancers in their life, and the best way to protect against these cancers is to receive the vaccine as a child.

The American Cancer Society recommends that youth get the HPV vaccine between ages 9 and 12. The HPV vaccine is given in two doses that are 6 to 12 months apart. Individuals up to age 26 can get the vaccine. Those between the ages of 15 and 26 will need three doses. The vaccine's ability to prevent cancer decreases as the age of vaccination increases.

Your insurance will most likely covers this vaccine. But, if it does not or you do not have insurance, the HPV vaccine is a part of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program which would cover the cost.

Please call your physician as soon as possible to schedule this vaccine for your child. If you do not have a personal physician, you can find one on the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset website: www.rwjbh.org/somerset, or by calling the physician referral service at 888-724-7123.

For more information on HPV and its vaccine, you can visit The American Cancer Society <https://www.cancer.org/healthy/hpv-vaccine.html>.

Wishing you good health.

Sincerely,

Serena Collado
Director, Community Health Department