

Public Feedback to ACHD on HPV - June 22 to July 12 2016 - Numbers

	Support	Oppose	Uncertain			
Stated Residents of Allegheny County Who Emailed or Called	484	249				
Stated Non- Residents of Allegheny County Who Emailed or Called	0	68				
Residence Unknown Who Emailed	118	189				
6/22 forum attendees expressing an opinion who did not write email	38	3	5			
Letters mailed or faxed	1	1				
Totals	641	510	5			1156
* Numbers as of Tuesday, July 12th						
* A thorough attempt to remove all duplicate commenters has been made.						
* If a commenter said they reside in Allegheny County, that was assumed to be accurate. ACHD staff did not attempt to verify addresses.						

Public Feedback to ACHD on HPV - June 22 to July 12 2016 - Opposing Arguments

Frequency	Category	Argument
**	Individual choice	This is an inappropriate government intrusion into individual liberty.
**	Parental choice	This is an issue of individual parental choice.
**	Safety	HPV vaccine specifically carries a significant risk of harm.
**	School transmission	This is sexually transmitted and not transmitted in school - not connected to school admission.
	Conflict of interest	Policymakers and/or healthcare professionals have a financial motive / conflict of interest with pharmaceutical companies that interferes with their ability to be objective.
	Cost	HPV is an expensive vaccine. Many people cannot afford it.
	Exemption	Policymakers cannot guarantee the future status of vaccine exemptions currently codified in PA law, therefore depriving opponents a future right to be exempt.
	General Vaccine Effectiveness	Previous epidemics were ceased because of improved living conditions and diet, not the vaccines.
	Governments opposed	Several countries removed HPV from their recommended schedule: France, India, Japan, and Spain have each filed criminal charges against HPV vaccine manufacturers for fraud, safety, and providing misleading information.
	Governments opposed	Governor Rick Perry did not override a veto of his executive order to mandate the vaccine in 2007.
	HPV is not a large concern	HPV is not an epidemic. Most HPV clears the body naturally
	HPV vaccine does not prevent cancer	There is no study that shows the vaccine reduced cervical or other types of cancer.
	HPV vaccine does not prevent cancer	This is not an anti cancer vaccine, it is a vaccine against genital warts.
	HPV vaccine does not prevent cancer	The HPV vaccine only prevents against a small number of strains of the virus.
	HPV vaccine makes HPV worse	The vaccine promotes type replacement, or a supervirus.
	Individual choice	This kind of governmental intervention is unamerican.
	Individual choice	Sexual behavior consists of private decisions. This is not a public health concern.
	Medical concern overblown	There is no medical emergency that merits a mandate.

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	Medical concern overblown	Cervical cancer is not a significant problem in PA.
	Need more research	This vaccine is too new to be mandated.
	Need more research	This vaccine is too new to know if prevents cancer.
	Need more research	Clinical trials for this vaccine were conducted improperly and without transparency.
	Parental choice	Medical professionals supporting the vaccine do not know my child.
	Parental choice	The vaccine is already available to anyone who wants it.
	Parental concern	Parents want to protect their children.
	Population is not undervaccinated	The notion of herd immunity doesn't apply to HPV.
	Promotes Sexual Activity	The HPV vaccine will lead to unwanted pregnancy.
	Promotes Sexual Activity	Requiring a vaccine against an STI encourages early sexual debut.
	Religious liberty	Pre-marital sex is in conflict with religious beliefs.
	Safety	HPV Vaccine causes cervical cancer
	Safety	As of June 24, 2016, there were 44,633 vaccine reaction reports made to the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) associated with HPV vaccines. 5,749 were classified as serious reactions, and included unexplained collapse, seizures, muscle pain and weakness; disabling fatigue, paralysis, brain inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, blood clots, multiple sclerosis, optic neuritis, spontaneous abortions, lupus, strokes, cardiac issues, seizures/convulsions, and many other health problems (VAERS reporting is voluntary and it receives reports for only a small fraction of actual adverse events). 5,749 reports on this since the HPV vaccine came out that aren't minor - neurological, autoimmune, convulsions.
	Safety	Gardasil vaccines could be "associated with the very rare but serious condition of premature ovarian failure (POF)," says the American College of Pediatrics on its website.
	Safety	HPV vaccines pose an inherent risk for triggering potentially fatal adverse reactions by causing acute autoimmunity.
	Safety	Specific story - including for example 13 year old girl, the daughter of [name removed] - she has life threatening health issues now.
	Safety	Kids already receive too many vaccines, and they are spaced too close together.

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	Safety	National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act. Since 1988, the federal vaccine injury compensation program created under the law has awarded more than \$3.3 billion to children and adults injured by vaccines or to families whose loved ones died from vaccine reactions. In 2011, the US Supreme Court ruled that ALL vaccines are "unavoidably unsafe."
	Safety, Vaccines General	Vaccines in general carry a risk of harm including injury or death.
	Unnecessary	The vaccine is unnecessary if no premarital sex.
	* 4 most frequent arguments	

Public Feedback to ACHD on HPV - June 22 to July 12 2016 - Supporting Arguments

Frequency	Category	Argument
**	HPV causes cancer	HPV causes cervical and oral cancer
**	HPV vaccine prevents cancer and genital warts	HPV vaccine prevents cervical cancer and genital warts
**	Population is undervaccinated	HPV is the most commonly sexually transmitted infection in the US, 79 million currently, 14 million new cases each year.
**	Safety	The vaccine is safe and has been well-studied. Side effects are not worse than other vaccines
	Adverse reactions are closely studied	the vaccine adverse reporting events system is very low threshold - there is no way of knowing if the vaccine actually caused the adverse effects that are being reported
	Adverse reactions are closely studied	the data being collected allows scientists to see if there is any relationship between the vaccine and the events allegedly connected to them
	Cost	The vaccine is affordable - The vaccine is covered by private insurers - Federal vaccines for childrens' program covers it - Affordable Care Act plans cover it
	Cost	Cost savings - cut down on costs associated with treatments later in life - example - 196 members with cervical cancer at Gateway last year - their costs were 3.5 million dollars
	Credible Supporters	Vaccine was supported by a representative of 18 local immunization coalitions
	Credible supporters	FDA American Academy of Pediatrics and CDC say the vaccine is safe
	Government support	Australia has had great success - within 3 years of mandate researchers started to see substantial drops in prevalence of genital warts, more than had been vaccinated, suggesting herd immunity
	HPV causes cancer	HPV affects men's health - throat, pharynx cancers are latent for 30-40 years. 1 head and neck surgeon's practice - 500% increase in last 5 years in head and neck cancers. 99% of cervical cancers linked to HPV
	Mandate makes a difference	Provider recommendation is critical to parental acceptance. Parents question why physicians treat HPV vaccine different from others.

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	Mandate makes a difference	The difference between recommending a vaccine and mandating it has significant impact on vaccination rates. Rates are significantly higher for mandated vaccines
	Parental concern	Parents want to protect their children from HPV-related cancer
	Pittsburgh has a history of vaccine innovation	The polio vaccine was discovered in Pittsburgh 62 years ago
	Population is undervaccinated	Completion rate of the 3 dose vaccine series is very low in the US, below herd immunity
	Population is undervaccinated	Rates of vaccination are lower in minority and low income communities - health disparities
	Safety	The vaccine is safe
	Safety	Can't get HPV from the vaccine
	Safety	Type replacement is not a concern
	Safety	Millions of doses of this vaccine have been given already with high safety rates
	Sexual Debut	No evidence vaccination encourages sexual activity
	Sexual Debut	The vaccine encourages open discussion and better communication between parents, children, and their doctors
	Sexual Debut	Don't need to tell the child why he or she is being vaccinated
	Timing of vaccine	when vaccines are given at a young age - the immune system is most robust
	Timing of vaccine	Recommended age (11-12) protects kids before exposure and when vaccine is most effective
	Vaccine Prevents HPV-related Disease	Genital warts are preventable
	Vaccine Prevents HPV-related Disease	Many unclassified hysterectomies have HPV at the root
	Vaccine prevents HPV-related disease	There is no treatment for HPV
	Vaccine prevents HPV-related disease	Colposcopy is embarrassing and anxiety inducing
	Vaccines are not in general unsafe	Concerns about the HPV vaccine have been made about many other vaccines historically and have not proven to be true
	Vaccines can effectively eliminate disease	Measles, mumps, rubella and polio are no longer problems in the US

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	Vaccines can prevent cancer	Hep B vaccination mandates and overall increase vaccination rates have reduced prevalence liver cancer
	* 4 most frequent arguments	