

Food and Drug Administration Approves Gardasil for Boys

“Gardasil covered for VFC-eligible females only at this time”

By Jane Stueve, Adolescent and School Health Consultant



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Gardasil for use in boys and men in October, 2009. The Merck, Gardasil, package insert now says:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website provided the following information on HPV vaccines, which includes Gardasil and Cervarix:

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Provisional Recommendations for HPV Vaccine

Date of ACIP vote: October 21, 2009

Date of posting of provisional recommendations: December 1, 2009

On October 21, 2009, ACIP voted on updated recommendations for use of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, including recommendations for the bivalent HPV (types 16 and 18) vaccine (Cervarix) for females and the quadrivalent HPV (types 6, 11, 16 and 18) vaccine (Gardasil) for females and males. The recommendations are listed at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/hpv-vac-dec2009-508.pdf.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

1.1 Girls and Women

GARDASIL® is a vaccine indicated in girls and women 9 through 26 years of age for the prevention of the following diseases caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV) types included in the vaccine:

- Cervical, vulvar and vaginal cancer caused by HPV types 16 and 18
- Genital warts (condyloma acuminata) caused by HPV types 6 and 11

And the following precancerous or dysplastic lesions caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18:

- Cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) grade 2/3 and Cervical adenocarcinoma *in situ* (AIS)
- Cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) grade 1
- Vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (VIN) grade 2 and grade 3
- Vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia (VaIN) grade 2 and grade 3

1.2 Boys and Men

GARDASIL® is indicated in boys and men 9 through 26 years of age for the prevention of genital warts (condyloma acuminata) caused by HPV types 6 and 11. (www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/g/gardasil/gardasil_pi.pdf)

Martha Froetschner, VFC Manager, with KDHE states: “The HPV vaccine, Gardasil, is covered for VFC-eligible females only at this time. Cervarix and male use of Gardasil have not been added to the VFC approved list of vaccines by the CDC to date. ACIP provisional recommendations do not immediately place new vaccines, or new indications for vaccine, on the VFC approved list. The CDC has a lengthy process to complete before approval and funding are approved for vaccines. This approval may take several months after an ACIP provisional recommendation is made on use of a vaccine.”

Why is immunizing against HPV important? As with all vaccines, it saves lives and decreases morbidity. Check with your primary care physician or local health department for more information and recommendations on HPV prevention.

Communicating With Teens About the Economy

By Jane Stueve, Adolescent and School Health Consultant

It is not a surprise that parents do not like to talk with teens about the economy because it can many times end up in a discussion of what cuts and sacrifices the teen and family may have to make in order to keep their family structure together.

With the nation's economy sputtering, the job market for teens has shriveled to its lowest point in 55 years and the unemployment rate for young adults is at its highest in almost a decade, according to research conducted by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University. www.goupstate.com/article/20080601/NEWS/806010342/1026/NEWS07&source=rss

Teenagers are having a hard time finding after school or weekend jobs. These days the jobs seem to be filled by older people looking to supplement their income or even adults that have lost their career job and need to make money to pay the bills. Fast food places hire the older workers because they do not have to work around high school schedules and in some cases the older worker is more reliable because they "need the money" for essentials rather than wants.

The Lawrence Journal World reported on September 23, that "almost one-quarter of the 279,169 youths in the \$1.2 billion jobs program (the Obama administration's economic stimulus program) didn't get jobs, as more adults sought the same low-wage positions at hamburger stands and community pools, according to an Associated Press review." http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2009/sep/24/teens-lack-jobs-despite-stimulus-package/?more_like_this.

But far from paralyzing teens, the new fiscal order finds them embracing these leaner times. Instead of

tuning out, teens are eager for parents to share the sober details of family finances. Instead of whining, they're clamoring to help by cutting back on outings and getting odd jobs. And instead of moping, they're shifting expectations for the present and banking lessons for the future. (USA Today, January 8, 2009. Retrieved December 10, 2009 from www.usatoday.com/life/lifestyle/2009-01-07-economy-teens-main_N.htm).



"Except for boy-girl relationships, the economy is the No. 1 topic with kids right now," says Jim Taylor, vice chairman of The Harrison Group, which canvasses young gamers for its market research surveys on behalf of interactive entertainment companies. "What we're seeing most is the rise of Mom. She's drawing the line on the frivolous spending. But many kids seem to welcome

that."

It is not surprising that teens are beginning to shop at thrift shops and even comparing who got the best deal on a pair of jeans or t-shirt. According to a new survey by The Center for Media Research, 70 percent of students spoke with their parents about the economy which resulted in the young people feeling safer, more confident and more empowered to weather the poor economy. Frugal is cool, says Mary Ann Romans, a Pennsylvania mother who writes the Frugal Living blog for Families.com.

When talking with your teen about the economy, The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises parents to be sensitive to each child's needs, pointing out that older children will want more details while younger children will benefit most from simpler, shorter pieces of information. The Academy recommends scheduling family meetings to allow for questions and discussion.