



Supporting a Healthy Community!

# Kiowa County Health Department

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Dear Parents,

As parents, we all want to protect our children and keep them safe. We teach them to wear a helmet when riding a bike, to wear a seatbelt when riding in a car and we give them immunizations to protect them from today, tomorrow and in the future.

All vaccines are given to make sure that when your child comes in contact with a virus, they would have the protection they need to fight that virus. Our goal, as health care providers, is to help you protect your children against serious diseases.

One of the viruses, HPV, will affect **50%** of Americans at some point in their lives. There is a vaccine available, for both boys and girls ages 11-26, to give them long term protections against this virus.

We are providing a link to a great website for information about this virus- [cdc.gov/hpv](http://cdc.gov/hpv). We encourage you to look at this website, and/or contact us with any questions or concerns.

Supporting a healthy community,

Kiowa County Health Department

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## Why now?

As parents, you do everything you can to protect your children's health, now and in the future. There is a vaccine available that will prevent HPV (Human Papillomavirus) which can lead to some types of cancers.

- 1 out of every 2 persons will be exposed to the virus that causes HPV at some point in their life.
- Most people, who have it, don't know it.
- There is no medical treatment or cure for HPV.

### So, why now?

The vaccine offers the best protection to males and females who receive all 3 doses and have time to develop an immune response **BEFORE** they are exposed to the virus. The immune response is best in preteens and teens, and this means better protection for your child.

- The vaccine is for males and females ages 11-26.
- It is safe and effective.

You have your child wear a seatbelt each time they ride in a car, *in case* something were to happen. You get your child vaccinated to protect them *in case* they ever come in contact with things like whooping cough, chicken pox and other serious viruses.

We would be happy to answer any questions or concerns that you may have: (620)723-2136

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