Facts about HPV infection
- HPV infection is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S.
- Most people clear the infection, but for some people the infection persists
- Most people with HPV infections don’t know they are infected
- HPV infections can have no effect or can cause warts or cancer
- Most people infected with oral HPV will never develop cancer
- There are many types of HPV – only a few are associated with cancer

Facts about HPV-associated cancers
- HPV is associated with cancers of the oropharynx (the back of the throat – most commonly the base of the tongue and tonsils), anus and genitals
- HPV is the most common cause of oropharyngeal cancer, but not oral cancer
- About 13,000 people in the U.S. were diagnosed with HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancers in 2009
- HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancers are 4 times more common in men than in women
- HPV-positive oropharyngeal tumors respond to treatment better than HPV-negative tumors

Preventing and screening for oral HPV infection
- The HPV vaccine appears to be effective in preventing oral HPV infection
- Use of condoms and dental dams likely lowers the risk of HPV infection
- There is no FDA-approved test to detect HPV in the mouth or throat
- There is no evidence that screening for either oral HPV infection or oropharyngeal cancers provides a health benefit

HPV vaccines
Gardasil is approved by the FDA:
- For vaccination in females 9 through 26 years of age for the prevention of cervical cancer and genital warts.
- For vaccination in males 9 through 26 years of age for the prevention of genital warts caused by HPV types 6 and 11
- For vaccination in people 9 through 26 years of age for the prevention of anal cancer caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18

Cervarix is approved by the FDA:
- For vaccination in females 9 through 25 years of age for the prevention of cervical cancer caused by HPV types 16 and 18.