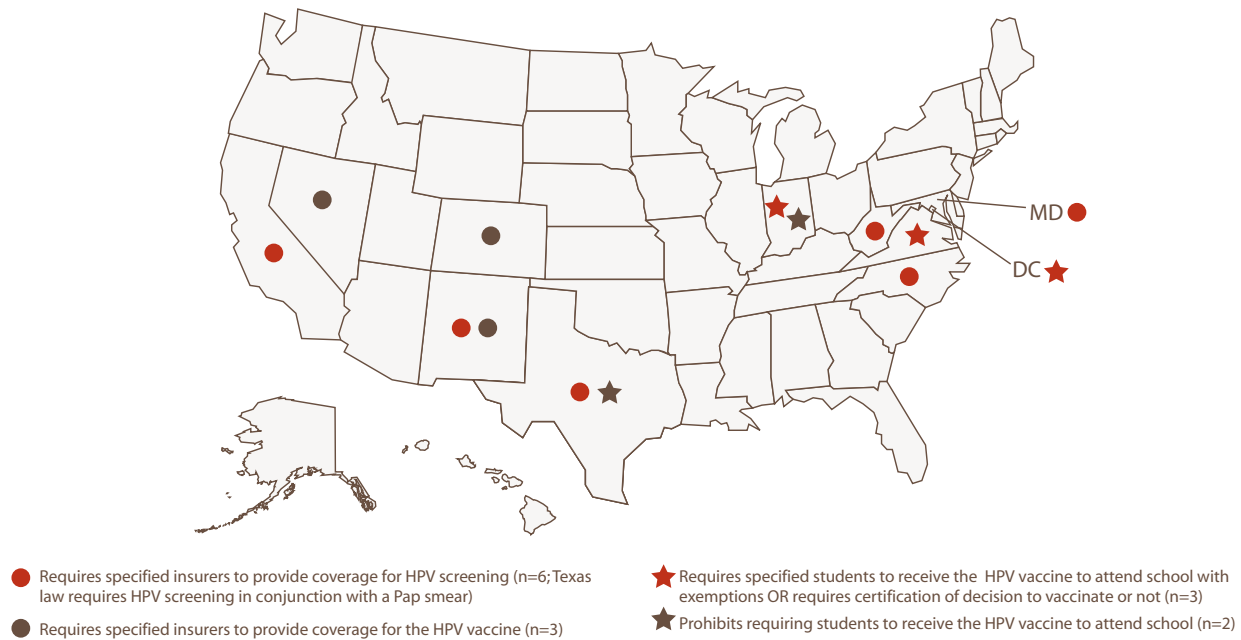


## Legislative Data Byte

## State HPV-Related Measures (as of June 30, 2007)



The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a transmissible virus that, once contracted, can promote precancerous cell growth. This growth can lead to certain cancers, particularly cervical cancer.<sup>1</sup> In June 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a vaccine against HPV for females between the ages of 9 and 26. Since 2005, 19 states, including the **District of Columbia**, have passed HPV-related laws or resolutions. These measures study the vaccine's implications, create public awareness campaigns, require health insurance coverage for HPV screening or vaccination, authorize the administration of the vaccine to specified populations, and incorporate the HPV vaccine into school immunization requirements.

**Minnesota, Montana, and Pennsylvania** formed task forces or study groups to consider the HPV vaccine's implications and make recommendations to the Legislature about future steps.

Eight states enacted laws promoting HPV awareness: **California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maryland, Maine, North Dakota, and Texas**. The Maryland Cervical Cancer Committee, for example, must develop an HPV public awareness campaign emphasizing parental education.

States have also enacted third-party reimbursement requirements relating to HPV. Six states (**California, Maryland, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia**) require specified insurers to cover the cost of HPV testing for certain females—although **Texas** requires coverage only when the HPV test is performed in combination with a Pap smear. **Colorado, Nevada, and New Mexico** require insurers to cover the cost of the vaccine itself for certain females—in **Colorado and Nevada**, females of such ages as recommended by a designated authority, and in **New Mexico**, girls between the ages of 9 and 14.

Two states—**Colorado and South Dakota**—have authorized their Departments of Health to administer or provide reimbursement to agencies administering the HPV vaccine.

Finally, six states have enacted laws relating to school health education or immunization requirements. The **District of Columbia** must inform all parents and guardians of school-age children about HPV and will require parents and guardians to submit certification of their decision to vaccinate or not to vaccinate girls entering sixth grade. After informing parents about the vaccine, **Indiana** will require parents or guardians of sixth-grade girls to provide schools with a statement regarding their decision about vaccination; they may opt out of providing this information. Students may not be prevented from attending school for failure to submit the statement or to obtain the vaccine. **Iowa** students in grades 7 through 12 must receive age-appropriate instruction on HPV and the vaccine. **North Carolina** requires schools to provide parents and guardians of children between 5th and 12th grade with information about HPV and cervical cancer. **Texas** requires developing educational materials for parents and school-age children about the vaccine, but prohibits requiring immunization as a condition of attending school. Finally, **Virginia** added the HPV vaccine to the immunization schedule and will require sixth-grade girls to receive the first dose of vaccine before attending school. The law exempts students whose parents or guardians object to the vaccine for religious or moral reasons, or if receiving the vaccine would endanger the student's health.

1 U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2006, June). FDA licenses new vaccine for prevention of cervical cancer and other diseases in females caused by human papillomavirus. *FDA News*. Retrieved July 24, 2006 from <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01385.html>.