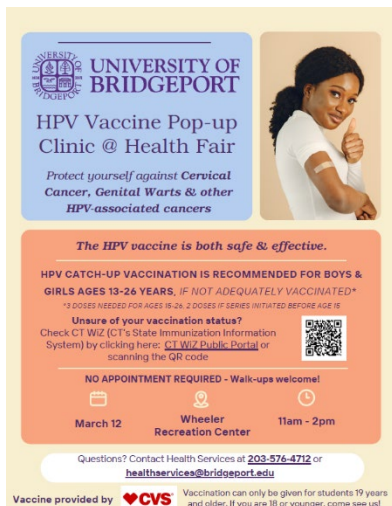


## Immunization Program Provider Spotlight April 2025

### The University of Bridgeport HPV Vaccination Pop Up



Organizing a successful vaccination event takes teamwork, dedication, and a commitment to public health: something the University of Bridgeport (UB) and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Work Group showcased with its HPV Vaccination Pop-Up held on March 12, 2025. Held during an on-campus health fair, this event was a collaborative effort aimed at increasing HPV vaccination rates, which have fallen behind in recent years due to the impact of COVID-19.

Planning for the event began in October 2024 and involved bringing together a wide range of partners, including CVS, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) Cancer Partnership Program, and Maggie Litwin's team at Southwestern Area Health Education Center (SW AHEC). These groups joined forces with UB's student organizations, local healthcare providers, and members of the Connecticut HPV Coalition to make the pop-up a reality.

At the event, CVS administered vaccines, while Physician Assistant (PA) student volunteers played a crucial role in educating attendees. To prepare, these students attended a training session two weeks prior, where they learned about CT WiZ and received an in-depth briefing on the HPV vaccine from a local medical provider. Their efforts helped ensure students and community members had accurate information to make informed decisions about their health.

Over the course of the day, more than 100 people, including students and older adults, visited the pop-up, engaging in conversations about HPV vaccination and cancer prevention. Katie Shuttleworth, a CT DPH Comprehensive Cancer Program Coordinator, provided education on HPV as well as other means of cancer prevention. Five students received their HPV vaccine on-site, while many others learned about their immunization status through CT WiZ and received guidance on next steps.

This initiative underscored the impact of positive partnerships in public health. Securing buy-in from UB leadership, local pharmacies, student groups, the health department, and providers was key to the event's success. Outreach efforts, including flyers distributed through student organizations, helped spread awareness and drive engagement.

Looking ahead, this partnership hopes to build on this momentum by hosting another pop-up in the fall, potentially expanding it to include flu and COVID-19 vaccines. By combining education with accessible vaccination opportunities, the University and its partners are working to close immunization gaps and keep the community healthier, one shot at a time.

