

Preteen & Teen Immunization E-Message: General Audience

Help preteens and teens stay healthy
for a good start to adulthood.

Strive 5
for
Vaccines

- Tdap (1 dose)
- Meningococcal (2 doses)
- Human Papillomavirus (3 doses)
- Varicella (2 doses)
- Flu (1 dose)

Preteens and teens bring a whole new definition to the word “busy”. They have their own schedules, deadlines, and obligations. They also have their own set of health needs, including immunizations.

You can use any office visit, like an appointment for camp or sports physicals, to ask your health care provider about the immunizations your child needs, including:

- Tdap vaccine (1 dose), which is a booster dose that protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. Pertussis (whooping cough) is very contagious respiratory disease that can cause violent coughing and makes it hard to breathe. Tdap is required for all children entering the eighth grade in the state of Missouri.
- Meningococcal (MCV) vaccine (2 doses), which protects against bacteria spread through coughing, sneezing, kissing, or sharing anything by mouth. Meningococcal disease can lead to brain damage, loss of hearing or loss of limbs, and even death.
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (3 doses), which protects females and males against the most common types of HPV that could cause genital warts, cervical cancer, and other cancers.
- Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine (2 doses), which protects against chickenpox, which can lead to skin infection, scars, and pneumonia.
- Influenza (Flu) vaccine (1 dose annually), which protects against flu that causes fever, tiredness, cough, and runny nose. Influenza can lead to pneumonia.

Getting your child immunized can be easy and inexpensive. For families with health insurance, all vaccines are usually covered. Children age 18 and younger may be eligible to get vaccines free through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program if they are Medicaid eligible, do not have health insurance, are underinsured, or are an American Indian or Alaskan Native. Medical providers may charge a fee to give each immunization. However, VFC vaccines cannot be denied to an eligible child if the family cannot afford the fee.

Vaccines can help preteens and teens stay healthy for a good start to adulthood. Talk to your health care provider to ensure your preteen and teen are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

For more information about preteen and teen immunizations, visit the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' web site at health.mo.gov/immunizations.

