

Adolescent Immunizations

In a report completed by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and Pfizer Inc., it was found that many adolescents in the United States are not receiving all of their recommended vaccinations. This has the potential to cause multiple health problems for adolescents such as whooping cough, influenza, meningitis, and HIV infection. This widespread lack of adolescent immunizations is ultimately due to missed annual health care visits, with more than one-third of teen responders attributing this to scheduling and one in four teens claiming that the need for an annual check-up was unclear. The reasons for missed health care visits are simple and ones that can easily be fixed with adolescent awareness and education. As health care professionals, there are steps you can take when children, adolescents, and parents visit your office to ensure that they are aware of the benefits that vaccines serve for their health and future.

- Provide multiple vaccines in a single visit and avoid missing opportunities to vaccinate
- Your professional opinion matters to parents and teens, so use this to recommend vaccines and explain their benefits
- Inform preteens and teens about the importance of getting vaccinated as they mature
- Some of the vaccines given to children wear off over time, which is why you should let them know getting vaccinated will protect them from harmful diseases such as tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis
- Diseases such as meningitis, septicemia, and HPV related cancers become more prevalent as we age, therefore it is crucial for adolescents to keep up with vaccines in order to ensure optimal health
- Vaccines will keep you and everyone you care about such as your siblings, friends, parents, and grandparents safe from harmful infectious diseases

For more information regarding adolescent immunizations, click below on any of the following resources:

<http://www.chop.edu/export/download/pdfs/articles/vaccine-education-center/vaccines-and-teens.pdf>

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Teen021507_187190_7.pdf

<http://www.getvaxed.org/videos.htm>

<http://www.adolescentvaccination.org/>

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/6._TipsForImmunizingAdolescents_344993_7.pdf