

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Human Papillomavirus, Meningococcal & Other Vaccines for Pre-Teens and Teens

Vaccines are not just for infants. In fact, they protect older children and adolescents from serious diseases. As children get older, the immunity provided by childhood vaccines can wear off. Children also develop risks for more diseases as they enter pre-teen years. For these reasons, they need vaccinations, too.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

HPV causes cervical cancer in women and genital warts in men and women. Infected persons will have the virus for life and can pass it on to others. HPV is a common sexually transmitted infection and often has no symptoms. HPV vaccine protects against most but not all causes of cervical cancer. It is generally started at 11-12 years of age. Girls need 3 doses. This vaccine is very effective against several types of HPV. The vaccine works best if given before girls are exposed to HPV. The most common side effect is soreness where the shot was given.

Meningococcal Disease

Meningitis affects the brain and spinal cord. It can lead to brain damage, severe disabilities or death. Common symptoms include a fever, rash, headache, or stiff neck. It is spread thru close contact: coughing, kissing and sharing food or drinks. Meningococcal vaccine can protect children and teens. It is usually given at the 11-12 year old check up. This vaccine is very effective. Some children develop some redness and pain where the shot was given.

Pertussis or Whooping Cough

Pertussis can cause severe coughing and choking, making it hard to breathe or eat. The cough often lasts for 3 months or more – making it hard to sleep, go to school or do other activities. It is spread by coughing, sneezing or close contact with an infected person. Tdap vaccine protects against whooping cough along with diphtheria and tetanus. This vaccine is very effective in preventing all 3 diseases. Tdap vaccine is usually given at the 11-12 year old visit. Children may develop some redness and pain where the shot was given.

The Michigan Department of Education, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Community Health is required by law (MCL 380.1177a) to develop and make available to schools information on meningococcal meningitis and human papillomavirus.

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Influenza or “Flu”

The flu is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. It is spread by coughing, sneezing, or talking.

Children with the flu develop a high fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat and achy muscles very quickly. Each year, children die from flu or its complications. Places where children are in close contact, such as classrooms, make it easier for flu to spread.

Pre-teens and teens should have flu vaccine every year. There are 2 types of vaccine: a shot and a nasal spray.

Both flu vaccines are safe. The most common side effect is soreness where the shot was given or a stuffy nose after the nasal spray.

Sixth graders and older teens are recommended to have the following vaccines if they have not already had them:

- 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine (MCV4)
- 3 doses of human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) – girls only
- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis vaccine (Tdap)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine (hep B)
- 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine (hep A)
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR)
- 2 doses of chicken pox vaccine (var)
- At least 3 doses of polio vaccine (IPV or OPV)
- Flu vaccine every year in the fall or winter months

Paying for Vaccines

Check to see if your health insurance will pay for these vaccines. If your child does not have health insurance or does not have health insurance that covers these vaccines, ask your health care provider or local health department about the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Eligible children, 18 years of age and younger, may receive publicly purchased vaccine through the VFC program.

For More Information...

- ▶ Your health care provider
- ▶ Your local health department
- ▶ Michigan Department of Community Health • www.michigan.gov/immunize
- ▶ Centers for Disease Control (CDC) • www.cdc.gov/vaccines
- ▶ Vaccine Education Center • www.chop.edu/vaccine
- ▶ Vaccines for Children program • www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc

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