



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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www.adph.org

ADPH reminds parents that their teens also need immunizations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preteens and teenagers need to be protected from serious diseases by getting the vaccines recommended for them. Immunization also protects family members, school staff and other people in the community. Vaccines are safe and effective, and serious side effects are rare. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the following vaccines are needed for teenagers.

Tdap Vaccine

This vaccine protects against three serious diseases: tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). Pertussis is a highly contagious and sometimes fatal bacterial disease which has increased alarmingly in the past decade. It spreads from person to person through moisture droplets in the air, probably from coughs or sneezes. Preteens should get Tdap at age 11 or 12. If your teen did not get a Tdap shot as a preteen, ask his or her doctor or nurse about getting the shot now.

MCV4 Vaccine

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) protects against some of the bacteria that can cause meningitis (swelling of the lining around the brain and spinal cord) and sepsis (an infection in the blood). Preteens need the MCV4 shot when they are 11 or 12 years old and then a booster shot at age 16. Teens who received the MCV4 shot when they were 13, 14 or 15 years old should still get a booster at 16 years. Older teens who have not gotten any MCV4 shots should do so as soon as possible.

HPV Vaccine

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines help protect both girls and boys from HPV infection and cancer caused by HPV. Two HPV vaccines protect girls from the types of HPV that cause most cervical cancer. One HPV vaccine also helps protect both girls and boys from anal cancer and genital warts. HPV vaccines are given to preteens as three shots over six months when they are 11 or 12 years old. Preteens and teens need to get all three shots for full protection. Preteens and teens who have not received all three HPV shots should ask the doctor or nurse about getting them now.

A good time to get vaccines is during a yearly health checkup. Your child can also get vaccines at a physical exam required for sports, school or camp. It is a good idea to ask the doctor or nurse every year if there are any vaccines that your child may need. Be sure to tell the doctor or

nurse if your child has any serious allergies, including allergies to yeast, latex or chicken eggs, before he or she receives any shots.

Contact your private physician, David Legett at (251) 937-5858 or the Immunization Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health at 1-800-469-4599. Information and phone numbers for local county health departments are available at adph.org/.

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