

Stats4Vax Backgrounder

Adolescent & Teen Vaccination

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), vaccines are one of the best ways to help protect teens against certain serious infectious diseases,¹ which could potentially lead to negative health effects or even death. The CDC recommends that adolescents receive the following vaccines²:

- **Meningococcal meningitis vaccine (MenACWY^a, MenB^b)**
 - Meningococcal meningitis is a rare but serious disease that develops rapidly and can claim a life in as little as one day.³ Of those who survive, approximately one in five are left with serious medical problems such as amputation, deafness, and brain damage.⁴ Teens are at increased risk of meningococcal meningitis. This increased risk may be due to activities like sharing utensils and kissing.^{5,6,7}
- **Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine**
 - Human papillomavirus (HPV) can cause various cancers in both boys and girls.⁸
- **Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine**
 - Tetanus causes painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over your body; diphtheria causes a thick covering in the back of the throat and can also lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure, and even death; and pertussis is a disease that can lead to coughing spells, pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death, particularly in infants.⁹
- **Influenza (flu) vaccine**
 - Flu can lead to fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, fatigue and more. Serious outcomes include hospitalization and even death.^{10,11}

Despite the CDC's recommendations, millions of teens remain under-vaccinated against these diseases, particularly meningococcal meningitis and HPV. The vaccines that help protect adolescents against these 2 diseases need to be administered as multi-dose series.^{12,13} According to 2016 data:

- Only 39.1% of eligible adolescents (by the time they were interviewed at 17 years of age) had received a recommended second dose of MenACWY to help protect against meningococcal meningitis, as compared to 82.2% of those teens who received the recommended first dose.¹²
- Only 49.5% of girls and 37.5% of boys had completed the HPV vaccination series.¹²

The CDC encourages those who are not up-to-date on their immunizations to talk to their health care professional.¹⁴ Teen health care visits are the perfect opportunity to provide catch-up immunizations according to the CDC's adolescent vaccination schedule. In fact, the CDC's 2017 Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule features a specific 16-year-old immunization platform visit to highlight the importance of seeing that these teens are up-to-date on recommended vaccinations.¹⁵

About Stats4Vax

Stats4Vax: Improving teen vaccination rates one school nurse at a time (Stats4Vax), a collaboration between NASN and Sanofi Pasteur, aims to improve teen vaccination rates by providing support, materials, and tools for school nurses and other health care providers to help guide conversations with parents/guardians about making sure their teens are up-to-date on their immunizations.

Learn more about Stats4Vax at www.Stats4Vax.com.

^a MenACWY = Quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine that helps protect against invasive disease caused by serogroups A, C, W, and Y

^b The CDC recommends MenB (serogroup B meningococcal vaccine) for certain adolescents at increased risk, e.g., students on college campuses that have recently experienced meningococcal B outbreaks.¹⁶

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