



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

June 1, 2009
Re: "Counting on You" :60, :30, :15

Dear Public Service Director:

It's a common misperception that vaccines are only for infants. As children get older, the protection provided by childhood vaccines can wear off. Children also develop risks for more diseases as they enter their pre-teen years. That is why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urges parents to take their 11 and 12 year olds for pre-teen check-ups and vaccines to protect them from serious, sometimes life-threatening diseases. The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, and Society for Adolescent Medicine support the CDC recommendations.

Three of the vaccines recommended for pre-teens are:

1. The Tdap vaccine, which protects against pertussis or whooping cough.
2. The MCV4 vaccine, which protects against meningococcal meningitis.
3. The HPV vaccine, which protects girls against the types of HPV that most commonly cause cervical cancer.

However, relatively few pre-teens have received these vaccines. In order to inform parents, family physicians, and pediatricians about these vaccination recommendations, and the severity of the diseases they prevent, the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases of the CDC launched a pre-teen vaccine campaign in August 2007. As part of Phase II of this outreach effort, we have developed public service announcements to alert parents about the need for their 11 and 12 year olds to get check-ups and vaccinations.

The back-to-school season is a perfect time to remind parents about this important step in protecting their children. We hope you will support our efforts in creating awareness about this serious issue by frequently airing the enclosed PSA. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Aparna Ramakrishnan at (202)884-8095 or aramakrishnan@aed.org.

Thank you for your help in disseminating this important information.

Sincerely,

Anne Schuchat, MD
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, National Center for Immunization
and Respiratory Diseases

Enclosure