

Pre-Teen Vaccines and the Diseases They Prevent



► Tdap Vaccine

The Tdap vaccine protects against pertussis, also called “whooping cough”. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends routine vaccination of all 11 and 12 year olds with the Tdap vaccine because protective immunity from the childhood DTAP vaccine may wane by adolescence.

This waning immunity contributes to whooping cough outbreaks in middle and high schools, where students are in close contact. Middle and high school outbreaks can disrupt usual school functions and result in substantial public health and school efforts to educate families, detect and treat cases and provide preventive treatment to close contacts of cases.

Whooping cough causes coughing fits that can be severe and last for many weeks. The disease is easily transmitted by coughing or sneezing and can be life-threatening if transmitted to infants.

In 2007, over 8,500 cases of whooping cough were reported. The Tdap vaccine has been studied in thousands of people in the United States and has been found to be safe and effective in preventing whooping cough.

► MCV4 Vaccine

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends routine vaccination of all 11 and 12 year olds with the MCV4 vaccine, which protects against the strains of bacteria that cause 75% of meningococcal infections in people age 11 and older.

Meningococcal disease is a serious infection of the protective lining of the brain and the spinal cord. It can also result in serious bloodstream infections or pneumonia. An estimated 1,400 to 2,800 cases of meningococcal disease occur in the United States each year. Adolescents die in about 10% of cases, even with antibiotic treatment. About 20% of survi-

vors will have long-term disability, such as loss of a limb, deafness, nervous system problems, or mental retardation. Since the early 1990s, outbreaks of meningococcal disease have occurred with increasing frequency in the United States.

The MCV4 vaccine has been studied in thousands of people and has been found to be safe and effective in protecting against meningococcal infections.

► HPV Vaccine

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends routine vaccination of all 11 and 12 year old girls with the HPV vaccine in order to protect against the types of HPV that most commonly cause cervical cancer.

The HPV vaccine has been studied in thousands of girls and women 9 through 26 years of age in the United States and around the world. This vaccine targets the types of HPV that most commonly cause cervical cancer and is extremely effective in preventing these types of HPV. Ideally, girls/women should get this vaccine before their first sexual contact when they could be exposed to HPV. This is because the vaccine prevents disease in girls/women who have not previously acquired one or more types of HPV prevented by the vaccine. It does not work as well for those who were exposed to the virus before getting the vaccine.

HPV is a common virus that is spread through sexual contact. About 20 million people in the United States are currently infected with HPV; it is most common in young people who are in their late teens and early 20s. There are many different strains or types of HPV. Some types can cause cervical cancer in women. Each year, about 12,000 women get cervical cancer and almost 4,000 women die from this disease in the United States.

For more information visit
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/preteen/