



TENNDERCARE

Adolescent Health Facts about Adolescent Immunizations

Problem:

- Pertussis (whooping cough) incidence has been gradually increasing since the early 1980s. Approximately 60 percent of the reported cases in 2004-2005 were among persons 11 years of age and older.
- Approximately 1,000 to 3,000 cases meningococcal disease are reported each year in the United States. The proportion of cases among adolescents and young adults has increased in recent years. The rate of disease is twice that in persons 17-20 years compared to the overall U.S population. Even with antibiotic treatment, adolescents die in about 10 percent of cases. About 20 percent of survivors will have long-term disability such as loss of a limb, deafness, nervous system problems or brain damage.
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States among adolescents and young adults. Up to 75 percent of new infections occur among persons 15-24 years of age.

Signs/Symptoms:

The causes of most vaccine-preventable diseases are either bacterial or viral infections. The range of symptoms can be vast and the long-term effect can be damaging.

- Whooping cough (pertussis) causes severe coughing spells, vomiting and disturbed sleep. It can lead to weight loss, incontinence, rib fractures and passing out from violent coughing.
- Meningococcal infection can become deadly fast, sometime in 48 hours or less. It can cause sudden onset of fever, headache and stiff neck, often accompanied by other symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and photophobia (eye sensitivity to light).

- HPV infections don't cause any symptoms and often go away on their own. However, if they don't go away, some strains of HPV can cause cervical cancer, genital warts and warts in the upper respiratory tract. There is no treatment for HPV infection, but the conditions it causes can be treated.

Recommendations:

Pre-teens and teens need annual health checks, even if they seem healthy.

- TENNCare eligibles can receive all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) from their primary care provider at no cost.
- Ask your adolescent's doctor if your child is up-to-date for all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines:
 - Tdap Vaccine– 1 dose
 - Meningococcal “meningitis” Vaccine (MCV) – 1 dose
 - Varicella Vaccine – 2 doses total
 - Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) – 3 doses total (Females Only)
 - Hepatitis A Vaccine – 2 doses total
 - Hepatitis B Vaccine – 3 doses total
 - Annual influenza “flu” shot
- Maintain a copy of your child's immunization record and take it to every doctor's appointment.

Resources:

To find out additional information about immunizations, visit these Web sites:

Department of Health – Immunization Program
<http://health.state.tn.us/CEDS/immunization>

Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 7 through 18 Years
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/downloads/child/2009/09_7-18yrs_schedule_pr.pdf

Pre-Teens and Teens Immunization Information
What Parents Should Know!
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/preteens-adol.htm#shouldknow>