

Attention Parents and Providers!



NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR 6TH GRADE ENTRY

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a dose of Tdap vaccine will be required for Alabama students ages 11 or 12 years entering 6th grade. This requirement will escalate by one successive grade each year for the following 6 years to include sixth through twelfth grades, beginning fall of 2016. You can help minimize the rush by encouraging vaccination well before the school requirement takes effect.

Important Vaccinations for Your Adolescent

The Alabama Department of Public Health Immunization Division and the Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics encourage you to keep track and make sure that your child receives all vaccines recommended or required in order to prevent diseases. There are four vaccines required or recommended for your adolescent child. Read about these vaccines and the diseases they help prevent below.

Immunizations recommended for persons 11 through 18 years of age^a

| Vaccination | Required or Recommended | For whom does the ACIP/CDC ^b recommend this vaccine? | What does this vaccine help protect against? | What are some of the symptoms of these diseases? | When is the vaccine given? |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| Tdap^c | Required * For all 11-12 year old adolescents in 6th grade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All adolescents 11 through 18 years of age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 serious bacterial diseases Tetanus: also known as “lockjaw” Diphtheria: upper respiratory disease Pertussis: also known as “whooping cough” | <p>Tetanus: Painful tightening of the muscles</p> <p>Diphtheria: Difficulty in breathing; can lead to paralysis, heart failure</p> <p>Pertussis: Severe coughing spells and vomiting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 dose during adolescence |
| Meningococcal | Recommended | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All adolescents 11 through 18 years of age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meningococcal disease including blood infection (sepsis) and meningitis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial symptoms can be flu-like (including fever), stiff neck, rash Can lead to hearing loss, amputation, seizures, coma, shock, or death within 48 hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 dose during adolescence |
| HPV^d | Recommended | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All females 11 through 26 years of age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexually transmitted infection caused by the human papillomavirus Can cause cervical cancer or genital warts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No symptoms at first | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 doses over 6 months |
| Influenza (Seasonal) | Recommended | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children 6 months through 18 years of age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influenza virus: the “flu” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever, sore throat, cough, head and muscle aches, extreme tiredness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One dose each year Children 6 months–8 years of age: 2 doses may be needed 4 weeks apart^a |
| Varicella | Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children 12 months through 18 years of age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chickenpox | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A skin rash of blister-like lesions, usually on the face, scalp, or trunk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One dose required^e Two doses recommended^e |

Other vaccines recommended include Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B.

*** Changes in the Alabama Blue Card for the 2010-2011 School Year: Tdap is now required for all 11-12 year olds.**

^a Additional vaccines may be recommended depending on the child’s vaccination history and risk factors. Please see the complete vaccination schedule at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm>

^b ACIP = Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

^c Tdap = Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis.

^d HPV = Human papillomavirus.

^e See the School Immunization Law

The above vaccination information and additional immunization facts are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/preteens-adol.htm>