



A CUP OF HEALTH WITH CDC

Teen Scene Vaccines

National, Regional, State, and Local Area Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13–17 Years – United States, 2014

Recorded: July 28, 2015; posted: July 30, 2015

[Announcer] *This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[Dr. Gaynes] Welcome to *A Cup of Health with CDC*, a weekly feature of the *MMWR*, the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. I'm your host, Dr. Robert Gaynes.

Vaccination of infants and toddlers is a common and well-accepted practice in the U.S. However, parents need to be aware of shots that are recommended for *preteens*.

Dr. Sarah Reagan-Steiner is a researcher with CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. She's joining us today to discuss the importance of ensuring that older children are up-to-date on their vaccines. Welcome to the show, Sarah.

[Dr. Reagan-Steiner] Thank you.

[Dr. Gaynes] Sarah, what vaccines are recommended for older children?

[Dr. Reagan-Steiner] There are three vaccines specifically recommended for older children—the human papillomavirus, or HPV, vaccine, which protects against cancers caused by HPV; the meningococcal vaccine which protects against meningococcal disease, including meningitis; and the Tdap vaccine which protects against pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria. And, of course, the flu vaccine is recommended for everyone.

[Dr. Gaynes] At what age should they be getting these shots?

[Dr. Reagan-Steiner] Well, flu vaccine is recommended every year for everyone six months of age and older. But preteens should be getting the other three vaccines at 11 to 12 years of age. And we're not doing so well with HPV vaccine. Only 60 percent of girls and about 40 percent of boys have started the HPV vaccine series, leaving many kids unprotected against cancers caused by HPV.

[Dr. Gaynes] So the HPV vaccine is recommended for girls *and* boys?

[Dr. Reagan-Steiner] Yes. The HPV vaccine is recommended for girls *and* boys to protect them against cancers caused by HPV.

[Dr. Gaynes] Are there any school attendance requirements for these vaccines?

[Dr. Reagan-Steiner] Yes, there are school attendance requirements for some of these vaccines and those requirements will differ by state. But, all these recommended vaccines are important to protect our children against serious and potentially life threatening illnesses.

[Dr. Gaynes] What should a parent do if their child is behind on recommended vaccines?

[Dr. Reagan-Steiner] It's never too late to get caught up. Parents—contact your child's doctor's office right away to make an appointment.

[Dr. Gaynes] Where can listeners get more information about vaccines recommended for older children?

[Dr. Reagan-Steiner] Go to cdc.gov/vaccines. There, you'll find easy-to-read schedules of immunizations recommended for preteens and teens. And most importantly, contact your health care provider and have a conversation with him about vaccines recommended for your children.

[Dr. Gaynes] Thanks, Sarah. I've been talking today with CDC's Dr. Sarah Reagan-Steiner about the importance of ensuring older children are current on recommended vaccines.

If your preteen or teen isn't up-to-date, make an appointment with your child's doctor.

Until next time, be well. This is Dr. Robert Gaynes for *A Cup of Health with CDC*.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.