

Other Vaccine Information

Being immunized for vaccine preventable diseases is a lifelong, life-protecting process. Besides those immunizations required for attendance in Minnesota schools, there are other vaccinations recommended for adolescents by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]. Check these out and talk to your health care provider about their importance for your child's health.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by infection with the Hepatitis A virus. This vaccination is now recommended for **all** children at one year of age. Individuals who travel to countries with high or intermediate prevalence of hepatitis A, such as Central or South America, Mexico, Asia, Africa, or Eastern Europe are also recommended to receive the Hepatitis A vaccination. It is also recommended that individuals receive Hepatitis A Vaccine if you live in an area where the prevalence of the disease is high. The Hepatitis A vaccine series is two doses, given 6 months apart.

Human Papillomavirus-

Human Papillomavirus [HPV] is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States. Most HPV infections don't cause any symptoms, and go away on their own. However HPV can cause cervical cancer in women. Cervical cancer is the 2nd leading cancer among women in the world. Cervical Cancer can be prevented with the three dose series of the HPV vaccine. HPV vaccine is routinely recommended for girls 11-12 year of age, and for those age 13-26 who have not already received it.

Meningococcal Disease (Meningitis)

Bacterial Meningitis, Meningococcal Disease is a serious illness caused by a bacteria. It is the leading cause of meningitis—an infection of fluid surrounding the brain and the spinal cord. It can also cause blood infections. Anyone at any age can get it, but it is most common in infants and others with medical conditions. College freshman living in close contact in dormitories have been found to have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease. This vaccine is routinely recommended for all children between 11-12 years at their seventh grade physical or for older adolescents.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Pertussis causes severe coughing spells, vomiting and disturbed sleep. In 2004 there were more than 25,000 cases of Pertussis in the United States. More than 8,000 of these cases were among adolescents and more than 7,000 were among adults. Up to 2 in 100 adolescents and 5 in 100 adults were hospitalized or had complications related to Pertussis. It is recommended that students receive Tdap booster—the vaccine that contains a Pertussis component—instead of Td between 11-12 years of age.

Remember, these immunizations are not required for school entry. We are sharing information provided about Vaccine Recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] to keep students healthy for a lifetime. Please talk to your health care provider about immunizations indicated for your child.