

# Vaccines Recommended at Ages 11-12: What Parents Should Know



Vaccines aren't just for babies. Some of the vaccines that babies get can become less effective as kids get older. As kids grow up they may also come in contact with different diseases than when they were babies. There are vaccines that can help protect your pre-teen or teen from these illnesses.

## What vaccines does my child need?

- ◆ Tdap vaccine: This continues protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).
- ◆ Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) (meningococcal ACWY) vaccine: This vaccine protects against infection from *Neisseria meningitidis* in the lining of the brain, spinal cord, and bloodstream. Pre-teens should get the first dose when they are 11 or 12 and a booster at age 16.
- ◆ Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine: This vaccine prevents some pre-cancers and cancers related to HPV. Pre-teens should get two doses before they turn 13 years old.
- ◆ A yearly flu vaccine: It protects against getting sick and spreading the flu virus.
- ◆ COVID-19 vaccines: Staying up to date on COVID-19 boosters will help prevent getting sick from COVID-19.

## When should my child be vaccinated?

- ◆ During a yearly health checkup. Ask your doctor or nurse every year if there are any vaccines that your child may need.
- ◆ At a physical exam required for sports, school, or camp.

## What else should I know about these vaccines?

- ◆ These vaccines have all been studied carefully through clinical trials to evaluate safety and how well they work before they are used with the general public. Even after they are licensed for public use, scientists continue to monitor the safety of vaccines.
- ◆ Most side effects from vaccines such as pain at the injection site are mild and go away quickly on their own. Serious side effects from vaccines are rare.
- ◆ It is very important to tell the doctor or nurse if your child has any serious allergies, including allergies to yeast, latex, or chicken eggs, before they receive any vaccines.
- ◆ If you have questions, talk to your doctor or health care provider.
- ◆ For more information, visit DHS's Immunizations: Childhood and Adolescent Vaccine Information page <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/childhood.htm>.

## How can I get help paying for these vaccines?

- ◆ The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides vaccines for children ages 18 years and younger, who are not insured, Medicaid-eligible (or Badger Care), American Indian, or Alaska Native.
- ◆ Visit the DHS VFC web page <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/vfc-parent.htm>.

