

Vaccines for Preteens

Why do preteens (11 to 12 year olds) need vaccines?

Protection from some childhood vaccines can wear off as kids get older. Preteens may come in contact with different vaccine-preventable diseases that could keep them out of school and activities.

How effective and safe are vaccines?

Vaccines are 90% to 100% effective. They are very safe and go through years of testing before being approved for use.

Which vaccines should preteens receive?

- **Tdap vaccine** is required for all students entering 6th grade in Virginia. This booster vaccine provides continued protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (“whooping cough”).
- **HPV vaccine** is recommended for all preteen girls and boys to provide protection before being exposed to the human papillomavirus. Getting the HPV vaccine is the best way to prevent many types of cancer.
- **Meningococcal conjugate vaccine** is recommended for all preteens. This vaccine protects against some of the bacteria that cause meningitis (swelling of the lining around the brain and spinal cord) and septicemia (infection in blood).



Remember to check with your preteen’s doctor to see what vaccines they need to stay up-to-date. It is also a good idea to keep an updated copy of your child’s vaccine history.

For more information go to: www.cdc.gov/vaccines or www.tjhd.org



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HealthWhys

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