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Attention Parents and Providers!

GET READY!

New immunization requirement for 6th grade entry

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a dose of Tdap vaccine is required for Alabama students age 11 years or older, entering the 6th grade.

This requirement increases by one successive grade each year for the following 6 years to include sixth through twelfth grades, through the fall of 2016.

For the school year 2013-2014, all students in grades 6-9 not previously receiving Tdap at age 11 years or older are required to have a Tdap vaccination.*

***For questions, please contact the Immunization Division at 1-800-469-4599.**

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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 five vaccines required or recommended for your adolescent child. Read about these vaccines and the diseases they help prevent.

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
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
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 at 11 through 12 years of age 1 booster dose at 16 years of age or 1 dose at 13 through 18 years of age if not previously vaccinated 1 booster dose at age 16 through 18 years for persons who received 1st dose at 13 through 15 years of age
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

Other vaccines recommended include Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B.

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

^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