



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Health

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County Urges Vaccination of Preteens



The County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health (DPH) is promoting Preteen Vaccine Week, February 8-14, 2015. This observance is part of a statewide effort to raise awareness of immunizing 11-12 year-olds against very serious, yet preventable diseases. Preteen Vaccine Week is a great reminder to check preteen's immunization records and schedule a visit with their medical provider.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that both preteen boys and girls receive the following recommended immunizations:

- Meningococcal (meningitis) – with a booster at 16 years of age
- HPV (human papillomavirus) – three dose series
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis)
- Seasonal flu shot
- Some preteens may need to catch-up on other immunizations, which may include: varicella, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, MMR, and polio.

A focus of Preteen Vaccine Week 2015 is increasing immunization against HPV. Despite its effectiveness against infections that can lead to several types of cancers, HPV vaccination rates remain low. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) survey indicated that only 46% of teen girls and 17% of teen boys in California have received all three doses.

“To protect preteens against cancer, vaccine preventable diseases and to meet school entry requirements, we encourage families of preteens and adolescents to schedule a visit with their medical provider and get the immunizations they need,” said Dr. Maxwell Ohikhuare, Health Officer. “It is also important for medical providers to screen preteens and adolescents for all recommended immunizations at every encounter.”

Under the Affordable Care Act, all new health plans are required to cover ACIP recommended vaccines for children of all ages, without charging a deductible or copayment. If a child does not have such coverage, contact your health care provider or call 1-877-243-8832 for information about the Vaccines for Children Program, which provides vaccines at low-cost.

For DPH clinic locations or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-722-4777, Monday-Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or visit www.sbcounty.gov/dph. For additional immunization information, please visit <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/Default.aspx>.