

JULY IS IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

IMPORTANT VACCINES FOR ADOLESCENTS

For many people when they think of immunizations they think of children. However, immunizations are important for adolescents, too. Below are some common vaccines that are recommended for adolescents.



Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine

This vaccine is designed to protect adolescents and adults from pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus (lock jaw) and diphtheria (thick covering in the back of the throat that can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure, or death). It is recommended for people ages 10 through 64.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

This vaccine protects against four major types of HPV, including most genital warts and cases of cervical cancer. In the U.S. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted virus, infecting about 6.2 million people each year. This vaccine is recommended for girls ages 11 to 12 years before their first sexual contact. It can also be given to girls and young women ages 13 to 26 who did not receive the vaccine when they were younger.

Chickenpox (Varicella) Vaccine

Although chickenpox is considered a childhood disease, those adolescents ages 13 years and older who have never had chickenpox or received the chickenpox vaccine are recommended to get vaccinated. Also, those adolescents who only received one of the two doses of the vaccine should get a second dose of this vaccine. Chickenpox can cause a rash, itching, fever, and tiredness that can lead to scarring, brain damage, pneumonia, or even death.

Meningococcal Disease (MCV) Vaccine

This vaccine protects against meningitis. Meningitis is caused by a bacteria that results in an infection of the spinal cord fluid and fluid surrounding the brain. This vaccine is recommended for all children at their routine preadolescent visit around 11 or 12 years of age. It is also recommended to those entering high school if they have not previously received the vaccine, to those who are college freshmen living in the dorms and those traveling to certain areas.



For more information about these vaccines or other vaccines that are available, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/adult-specinfo.htm>. Talk to your local health care provider to find out what vaccines are recommended for you or your child. Adults and adolescents can also take an online quiz at <http://www2.cdc.gov/nip/adultImmSched/> to find out what vaccines you may need and should discuss with your physician.

WHERE CAN ADOLESCENTS GET VACCINATED?

Vaccines for adolescents are available through local physicians, Community Health Care, Passport Health and the Scott County Health Department.

The Scott County Health Department provides immunizations to Scott County residents, birth through 18 years old, who meet Vaccine For Children eligibility.

To qualify for the Vaccine For Children program, the adolescent must be **one of the following**:

- Medicaid-eligible;
- Uninsured;
- Underinsured;
- American Indian/Alaskan Native.



SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IMMUNIZATION CLINIC HOURS:

Appointments are encouraged for the Immunization Clinic and can be made for:

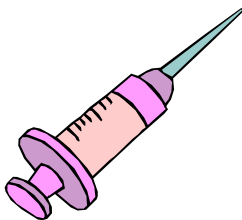
Wednesdays from 7:45 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Call 563-326-8618 to schedule an appointment.

KEEP YOUR VACCINES UP-TO-DATE!



Scientists are working on developing new vaccines everyday, so it is important to keep your eyes and ears open for when new vaccines are released so that you can discuss it with your provider to see if you qualify. Also, if you are traveling abroad, be sure to check with your provider to see if there are any diseases common in the area you are visiting that you can be vaccinated against. And don't forget to get your annual flu shot and be sure your tetanus vaccine is up-to-date. Not only will you be protecting yourself, but you will be protecting everyone around you.



If you would like to receive this newsletter and other Scott County Health Department press releases electronically, please add your name to our e-mail list on our website at: www.scottcountyiowa.com/health.



Funds Available to Scott County Residents for Water Well Services

The Scott County Health Department receives money from the Grants to Counties program to help residents pay for the cost of well abandonment, rehabilitation, and water sampling. This program is funded by the Iowa Department of Public Health. For more information on water well services or to request a service, please call the Scott County Health Department at 563/326-8618 or submit the online Water Well Services Request Form which can be found at: http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/water_welltesting.php.

