

Your Immunization Checklist: From childhood to adulthood

By Jeanne Sager

VACCINES YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO START MIDDLE AND/OR HIGH SCHOOL

The vaccine load lessens as kids get older, with a push toward booster shots that will reinforce immunity from vaccines administered when they're younger. Also on tap for the middle and high school years are vaccines to protect them from diseases they might encounter due to a more advanced lifestyle.

HPV –

What it's for: Given only to girls, this vaccine prevents four of the forms of the human papillomavirus, a sexually transmitted disease which can cause cervical cancer and genital warts.

When it's given: Anytime between age 9 and 26, it's most commonly administered by doctors when a girl is 11 or 12 in three doses over a six month period.

Tdap –

What it's for: The adult variation of the DTaP given to infants and toddlers, it defends the body against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

When it's given: The Tdap is administered 10 years after a child's DTaP. This typically falls around ages 11 or 12.

MCV –

What it's for: To prevent four types of bacterial meningitis, an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. The four types prevented include three that cause most infections in the United States and a fourth responsible for epidemics in Africa.

When it's given: Administered to pre-teens at 11 or 12, there is just one dose.

Influenza –

What it's for: Slightly different each year, the vaccine prevents the strain of seasonal flu expected to make its rounds of the country.

When it's given: The CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics both call for annual influenza vaccines in the late summer or early fall for children 6 months to age 18.