

Many of you may have already received an envelope for your child with a letter that indicates he or she is due for some recommended vaccinations. As part of our performance improvement at the School Based Health center, we are reviewing all of our enrolled patient's medical records to verify that they have all of the recommended vaccinations they are eligible for their age. I would like to clarify that recommended and required for school entry/attendance are different.

As a primary care pediatric nurse practitioner, I strive to provide care based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines. The AAP supports the recommendations by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. In evaluating your child's record, we look at both what we have on file through our electronic medical record and what is on file in the NYSIIS program. NYSIIS is the New York State Immunization Information System. When an immunization is given at an office that uses NYSIIS, the immunization is logged in the system so that other healthcare providers can access the immunization record. Many offices use this system, so for most of our patient's we are able to see immunizations that are administered elsewhere. If you believe your child has already received an immunization at an outside Primary Care Provider, it is possible that we do not have it on record.

If your child is an adolescent, you may notice that it is recommended he or she receive the HPV vaccine series as well as Menactra. Menactra is a vaccination against meningococcal meningitis which is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children. Meningitis is an infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord. This vaccine is recommended to be given at age 11 and then again at age 16. Menactra has long been required for college entry, but has more recently been added to the required immunizations for middle/high school attendance. This change will not officially take effect until the fall 2016. If your teen is over the age of 11 but not yet 16, it is recommended that he or she still receive two of these vaccinations. This will provide them with the best immunity against Meningococcal meningitis. If he or she has already turned 16, the booster dose is not recommended. This doesn't mean that your teen should wait until 16 to receive this vaccination.

HPV protects your teen against many strains of the Human Papilloma Virus which can cause genital warts and multiple types of cancer. It is important to know that HPV has now surpassed smoking as the leading cause of mouth and throat cancer. The HPV vaccine has been being administered to patients for almost a decade and had been in clinical trials long before that. This is not a new vaccine, it is a newer vaccine. Even so, the vaccine carries minimal risk compared to developing the diseases it prevents. Many parents hesitate to start HPV at 11 when it is recommended. They think their child is too young, too immature to need it. Unfortunately, by the time the parent accepts this vaccine may be needed, the child may have already become sexually active. The reason this vaccine is recommended at a young age is so that the adolescent finished the entire series before ever becoming sexually active.

In addition to these vaccinations, we are also recommending our patients to have the Hepatitis A vaccine. Hepatitis A is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus. This virus spreads from person to person through fecal-oral contact. Many times this virus may cause no symptoms, but if left unchecked, it can lead to liver failure, joint pain, and kidney/pancreatic or blood disorders. This means that contact with objects, food or drinks contaminated with stool containing the virus can cause

infection. This vaccine is recommended to be given to children started at age one. For lasting protection two doses of this vaccine should be given with a minimum of 6 months between the doses. In the United States, much of our produce, especially in the winter months is imported from other countries. This produce can be contaminated with the virus.

For more information on the recommended vaccinations, I invite you to visit the CDC's ACIP website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>

For an easy to read vaccine schedule for 0-6 years of age visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf>

For an easy to read vaccine schedule for 7-18 years of age visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/downloads/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf>

For the current NYS school entry/attendance vaccine requirements visit:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf>

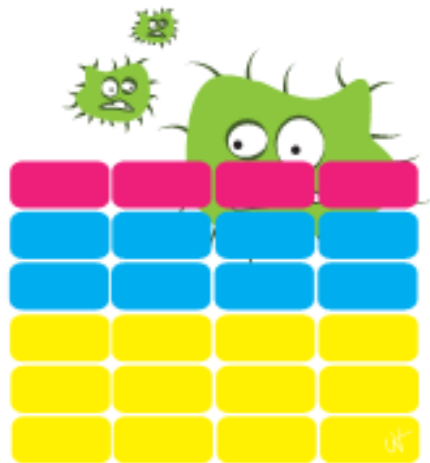
If you have any questions or concerns, I am more than happy to discuss them with you. Please call the School Based Health Center at 827-3793.

Thank you,

Hannah Pizza CPNP-PC

ADOLESCENT IMMUNIZATION

can be as simple as



1

dose of
Tdap vaccine

2

doses of
meningococcal
vaccine

3

doses of
HPV vaccine