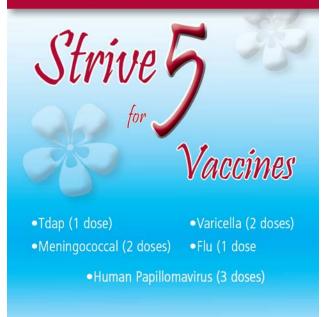
Preteen & Teen Immunization E-Message: Health Care Professionals & Medical Providers

Help preteens and teens stay healthy for a good start to adulthood.



Immunizations are the most successful and cost-effective public health tools for preventing disease and death. The "Strive for 5" campaign is designed to help raise awareness of the importance of preteen and teen vaccinations.

Immunization rates for preteens and teens aged 11 to 18 years in the United States are far below national goals, leaving many young people unprotected against several serious but preventable diseases. While you cannot protect preteens and teens from everything, you can protect them from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Help preteens and teens stay healthy for a good start to adulthood. Utilize every health care visit as an opportunity to vaccinate: well child check-ups, camp, sports, and travel physicals! Check preteen and teens' immunization records for Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine, meningococcal vaccines, human papillomavirus vaccines, second dose of varicella vaccine, and an annual influenza vaccine.

The Bureau of Immunization Assessment and Assurance has developed tools and resources to promote and support preteen and teen immunizations through community outreach activities. Tools and resources include bookmarks, a poster, a tip card, fact sheets, and a toolkit which contains evidence-based strategies to improve immunization awareness. We encourage coalitions, health care professionals and medical providers, local public health agencies, and schools to initiate, sponsor, and participate in Preteens, Teens & Vaccine Awareness events throughout the state.

For more information about preteen and teen immunizations, visit the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' web site at <u>health.mo.gov/immunizations</u>.

