

Pediatric Immunization Catch-Up Talking Points for Adolescents Aged 12-15 Years

To remind and emphasize the importance of immunization catch-up in relation to COVID-19 vaccine:

As California begins to open up again, it's especially important that adolescents catch-up on routine immunizations that they might have missed during the pandemic.

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, many young teens missed getting their routine shots, such as vaccines that protect against measles and pertussis (whooping cough). It is important that your children catch up on any needed immunizations.
- With schools, after-school programs, and recreational centers reopening, doctors are emphasizing the importance of catching up on required vaccines for young teens aged 12-15 years old. Speak with your adolescent's doctor now to help protect your child throughout the school year.
- [Lower-income children were significantly more likely to miss wellness visits and vaccinations than middle or upper-income children.](#) For those who are out of work or without health insurance, your child can still get vaccinated. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program offers free vaccines to families who cannot afford to pay for their children's vaccines (through 18 years of age).
- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for children ages 12 years old and above by the FDA and the CDC. According to CDC, COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be administered during the same visit. Get your young teens covered with all routine vaccines, including COVID-19 if it is available.

Medical providers are taking every precaution to keep you and your family safe, wherever you plan to get vaccinated.

- It is safe to visit a doctor's office, clinic, or pharmacy. Your medical team is taking extra safety measures like masking, distancing, and extra cleaning to ensure patients are safe.
- Get your young adolescent caught up on their vaccines today! Ask your child's doctor about COVID-19 safety measures, like masking, distancing, and extra cleaning.

Don't Wait—Vaccinate!

- Routine vaccinations of young teens have dropped drastically during the pandemic. For example, [Tdap vaccine among 11–13-year-olds dropped more than 19%](#). Make sure young teens are protected from serious illnesses, so they can get back to school and sport activities safely!
- Your child aged 12-15 may be eligible for up to four routine vaccines, including [Tdap](#), [HPV](#), [the first dose of meningitis vaccine](#) and [a yearly flu shot](#). These shots may be given

during the same visit with the COVID-19 vaccine. Now is the time to catch up on missed vaccines.

- Don't wait for fall to get routine vaccinations. It's hard to find time once school starts! Plan ahead and get missed vaccines now.