

Pediatric Immunization Catch-Up Talking Points for Adolescents Aged 16-17 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 teens missed getting their routine shots, such as vaccines that protect against flu and meningococcal disease. 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 recommended vaccines for teens aged 16-17 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).
- According to CDC, COVID-19 vaccines and other routine vaccines may now be administered during the same visit. Get your teens covered with all routine vaccines, including COVID-19.

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. Doctors are taking extra safety measures like masking, distancing, and extra cleaning to ensure patients are safe.
- Get your teen caught up on their vaccines today! Ask your child's doctor about COVID-19 safety measures, including separating appointment times for sick and healthy patients, disinfecting between appointments, mask wearing and physical distancing.

Don't Wait—Vaccinate!

- Most adolescents aged 16-17 are recommended to [get a yearly flu shot and a booster meningococcal 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.