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## Changes to School Rules for Adolescent Vaccines

Most parents are diligent about having their babies vaccinated. Unfortunately some parents don't realize that adolescents need vaccinations to keep them well and give them a healthy foundation for adulthood.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) provides guidance to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the control of vaccine-preventable diseases. Along with the recommended childhood vaccines, some vaccines are now routinely recommended by the ACIP for pre-teens and teens.

- Children 11-12 years of age should be given meningococcal (MCV4) and tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccines.
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is routinely recommended for girls at 11-12 years of age and can also be given to boys.
- Older adolescents who have not received the above vaccines should be immunized, too.
- Pre-teens and teens should get influenza vaccine every year.

It's not too early to start thinking about next school year. In fall 2009, new school immunization rules were approved by the Michigan Legislature for the 2010-11 reporting year\*. As of January 1, 2010, all sixth grade students who are 11 years of age and older, as well as all children 11 through 18 years of age who are changing school districts, need documentation of:

- Two doses of varicella (Var) vaccine or history of chickenpox disease
- One dose of meningococcal (MCV4 OR MPSV4) vaccine
- One dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine (if 5 years have passed since last dose of tetanus/diphtheria vaccine - DTaP, Td or DT)

Many children in this age group are missing these vaccines. According to December 2009 Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) data, 27% (n=73,007) of 11-12 year olds have been vaccinated with MCV4 vaccine and 33% (n=87,980) of 11-12 year olds have been vaccinated with Tdap vaccine.

Back-to-school check-ups and sports physicals are an ideal time to ensure that your patients are fully immunized and will meet school entry requirements. Integrating vaccine administration with other preventative and acute health care visits now will help you beat the rush for "back to school" shots in the fall.

\*These new rules also require two varicella vaccines for children in kindergarten.

For more information visit: [www.michigan.gov/teenvaccines](http://www.michigan.gov/teenvaccines).