Getting Adolescent Vaccination Back on Track: Actions for Health Systems

Summer 2020

#1: Protect adolescents through vaccination before next school year.
- We have to protect kids against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Tweens need shots to protect against meningitis, HPV cancers, tetanus/diphtheria, and the flu.
- We must use summer to catch up on missed vaccinations due to COVID-19.

CALL TO ACTION: Develop a summer vaccination catch-up plan.

#2: Invite adolescent patients in for their vaccinations this summer.
- Run patient lists of who is due or overdue.
- Outreach to patients for well-child visits.
- Combine telehealth visits with in-person vaccine delivery.
- Keep current on CDC guidelines by following vaccination guidance during the pandemic.

CALL TO ACTION: Contact your patients to come in as soon as feasible.

#3: Let parents know the precautions you’ve taken.
- Parents need to hear how your facility will protect their child from COVID-19.
- Share how and if you’re separating well-child and immunization visits from sick child visits.
- Use proactive communication channels to inform parents including: calls, patient/member portal, email, texts, hold messages and social media.
- Refer to this CDC resource to improve the messaging your facility is using.

CALL TO ACTION: Communicate how you’re keeping patients safe!

#4: Get creative to deliver immunizations safely and efficiently.
- Restarting adolescent vaccination may depend on your locality.
- Use standing orders to facilitate vaccination of more patients.
- Find new means to vaccinate through parking lot clinics, community partnerships, mobile units or other creative solutions.
- Consider offering adolescent health-only days.
- Ensure that you have sufficient vaccine supply to meet demand.
- Share your creative care solutions with parents and the public.

CALL TO ACTION: Be creative in how your system delivers well-child visits and immunization.

#5: Well-child visits are an essential service.
- Work with your leadership to prioritize well-child visits across your health system.
- Adolescent population health delivers on the triple aim of better care, lower costs, and better patient experience.
- Provision of well-child visits is mission-centric and supports the economic viability of health systems.
- Parents need reassurance that well-child visits are vital to protecting their children’s health. Learn more at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/why-vaccinate/well-child-visits.html.

CALL TO ACTION: Include well child visits in your system-wide plan to provide essential medical care.

#6: Set a goal of catching up all your adolescent patients by September 1st.
- We have to regain ground lost due to COVID-19. Vaccinations are down 40-70%.
- Our work has urgency. We must protect kids from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Anticipate the need for flexibility and adaptability in your plan as COVID-19 may resurface.
- Your health care team can do this! There has never been a better time to protect children.

CALL TO ACTION: Execute your adolescent action plan between June and August!

CALL TO ACTION: Develop a summer vaccination catch-up plan.

CALL TO ACTION: Contact your patients to come in as soon as feasible.

CALL TO ACTION: Communicate how you’re keeping patients safe!

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