

CATCH UP NOW:

March - May 2021

An Urgent Action Call for Health Systems to Close the Adolescent Vaccination Care Gap

The United States is facing a significant vaccination deficit for school-age children, especially adolescents, due to the pandemic.

Public childhood vaccine doses are down

11.2 million

non-influenza doses as of February 28, 2021



Adolescent rates have significantly dropped.

ADOLESCENT IMMUNIZATION HAS DROPPED PRECIPITOUSLY SINCE THE PANDEMIC HIT

Immunizations provided by the Vaccines for Children program in FY20 & 21 as compared to FY19



↓ 21%

HPV vaccinations down >1 million doses



↓ 22%

Tdap vaccinations down >685K doses



↓ 18%

Meningococcal vaccination down >818K

SOURCE: CDC Communications Jan. 2021



ENSURE YOUR ORGANIZATION HAS A GAME PLAN TO GET ADOLESCENT VACCINATION BACK ON TRACK.

If COVID-19 vaccine is approved for ages 12+ this summer, current recommendations include:



No other vaccines 14 days before

No vaccines 3-4 weeks in between two-dose vaccine

No vaccines 14 days after

This means there's a possibility of an 8 week blackout for recommended vaccines during the usual back-to-school vaccination season.

Stay current with CDC guidelines at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

It is crucial that we catch up on adolescent vaccination earlier than usual in 2021 to ensure a safer return to in-person schooling.

Health systems are part of the solution!

Implement an Early Summer Immunization Initiative

March - May 2021



Communicate Proactively with Families:

- Tell families about [office safety measures](#)
- Promote the availability of appointments
- Activate multiple channels to [communicate](#) with parents including calls, texts, e-mails and patient portals
- Use [social messages](#) and [videos](#) from the HPV Roundtable



Activate Reminder/Recall Efforts

- Review current adolescent rates by site & provider
- Pull overdue and newly due patient lists
- Send [letters/emails](#) inviting patients in for [annual well child visits](#) and immunizations
- Call patients to schedule well child and immunization visits



Miss No Opportunity to Vaccinate

- Educate all care team members on the growing vaccination gap
- Use standing orders to increase immunization capacity
- Offer all [ACIP-recommended vaccines](#) at every visit
- Consider recommending HPV vaccination [starting at age 9](#)
- Expand hours and locations for well child and immunization-only visits