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.

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.

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
- Emphasize the availability of care anytime
- Activate multiple channels to communicate with parents including calls, texts, emails and patient portals
- Use social media and other patient engagement tools

Activate Reminder/Recall Efforts
- Review current adolescent rates by clinic provider
- Pull overdue and newly due patient lists
- Send prompt for annual well child and immunization visits
- Call patients to schedule annual 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
- Use standing orders to increase immunization capacity
- Offer all ACIP-recommended HPV vaccines at age 9
- Expand hours and locations for well child and immunization-only visits

Check out Health System Resources & Clinic & Health System Action Guides

CATCH UP NOW: March - May 2021

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