



Please join the Immunization Coalition of Los Angeles County (ICLAC) in recognizing Preteen Vaccine Week, February 8 – 14, 2015. This week is an excellent opportunity to remind families of your 11- and 12-year-old patients to schedule a preteen doctor visit and get immunized against dangerous, contagious, though preventable diseases.

Please use every opportunity, including sports physicals and well child visits, to promote and provide the following immunizations to preteens.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- [HPV](#) infections are common and can cause cancer. Most Americans will catch at least one type of HPV, most often in their teens or early 20's. According to the CDC, HPV causes more than 20,000 cancers in women and about 12,000 cancers in men annually in the United States.
- The CDC's new [tip sheet](#) for talking to parents about HPV vaccine includes recommended messages that are based on CDC research regarding parental beliefs and concerns about HPV.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

- [Pertussis](#) is highly communicable and can cause severe coughing spells that lead to vomiting or broken ribs. Preteens suffering from pertussis can be hospitalized and miss weeks of school. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that everyone 11- or 12- years of age and older receive a Tdap booster shot.
- Under [state law](#), all incoming 7th grade students will need to show proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school. You can download [tips and tools](#) for providers regarding this law, including webinars, FAQs, and educational materials.

Meningococcal Disease

- [Bacterial meningitis](#) can cause brain damage, arm and leg amputations, kidney damage, and death. Preteens need one meningococcal shot at 11 or 12 years of age and a booster at age 16.
- Share the CDC's "[Meningococcal Vaccine for Preteens and Teens](#)" flyer with preteen patients and their parents.

Influenza

- As of late January 2015, [influenza](#) remained widespread in California and the flu will likely continue to spread into the spring. It's not too late to vaccinate your preteens against influenza. Get the message out with the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) "[It's Not Too Late](#)" flyer.

To download or order preteen vaccine education materials, please visit the: [ICLAC Preteen Vaccines Webpage](#) or [CDPH Preteen Vaccine Week Webpage](#).

Please join the Immunization Coalition of Los Angeles County (ICLAC)

- On April 9, 2015 ICLAC will host a presentation on using social media to promote immunizations.
- On October 29, 2015, ICLAC will host a presentation about improving adult immunization coverage levels in the era of the Affordable Care Act.

For more information, visit the [ICLAC web page](#) or contact Wendy Berger at wberger@ph.lacounty.gov or (213) 351-7440.

Thank you for supporting Preteen Vaccine Week!

