



# CVP Update



## Adolescent Immunization Action Week (AIAW)

The second annual [Adolescent Immunization Action Week \(AIAW\)](#) will take place April 3<sup>rd</sup>–7<sup>th</sup>. This week focuses on the importance of adolescent immunization and encourages provider action to ensure adolescents are up-to-date on their recommended immunizations.

In Connecticut, **only 57.6% of adolescents ages 13–15 are up-to-date on human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination.** This rate is significantly lower than other adolescent vaccines such as tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal conjugate ACWY (MCV4) which are 94.7% and 92.6% respectively, even though all of these vaccines could be given in the same office visit.

Although Tdap and MCV4 are required for entry into 7<sup>th</sup> grade, HPV is not. However, the lack of a requirement does not signify a lack of importance. **HPV vaccine prevents cancer**—more than [90% of HPV-related cancers can be prevented](#) when the vaccine is given at the [recommended ages](#). Despite the overwhelming evidence to support this, a significant amount of hesitancy still exists.

Health care providers are the most trusted source of vaccine information for parents of adolescents. As such, a strong provider recommendation goes a long way in bridging the gap and increasing HPV vaccination coverage. Additionally, data shows that when providers use a [presumptive recommendation](#) and choose language that assumes the parents will vaccinate, parents are more likely to accept the vaccination.

Once adolescents have received their first dose of HPV vaccine, it is important to make sure they complete the series on-time. Utilizing CT WiZ functionalities such as the [recommender](#), which allows you to see which vaccines are due today and which vaccines will be due for your patient in the future, and [reminder/recall](#), which provides a list of patients due and overdue for vaccinations, can be useful to ensure your adolescent patients stay up-to-date on their recommended vaccines.

### In this Issue:

AIAW	P.1
Adolescent Immunizations	P.2
NIIW	P.2
CT WiZ Public Portal Improved	P.2
Data Quality Corner	P.2
Employee Spotlight	P.3
Provider Spotlight	P.3

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**860-509-7929**

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For a current list of IAP Contacts, Map and Social Media visit [Immune Action Plan \(IAP\)](#)

View the Connecticut AIAW events happening across the state on our [webpage in the events section!](#)

**CDC-RECOMMENDED VACCINES FOR ADOLESCENTS**

**AGES**

- 11-12 Years:** HPV\* (2 doses), MenACWY, Tdap, Flu (seasonal), COVID-19<sup>1</sup>. \*Can start at 9 years.
- 13-15 Years:** MenACWY (if not previously vaccinated), Flu (seasonal), COVID-19<sup>1</sup>.
- 16 Years:** MenACWY Booster, MenB<sup>2</sup>, Flu (seasonal), COVID-19<sup>1</sup>.
- 17-18 Years:** Td Booster every 10 years, Flu (seasonal), COVID-19<sup>1</sup>.

\*Consult the CDC website for dosing schedule.  
<sup>1</sup>Adolescents may be vaccinated with a 2-dose MenB vaccine; the preferred vaccination age range is 16 through 18 years.  
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### What can you do this week?

- Read the [resource on Adolescent Immunizations](#) and share with your office staff.
- Run a [reminder/recall report](#) to assess how many patients are not up-to-date on any of their [adolescent immunizations](#) (Tdap, MCV4, and HPV) and reach out to schedule an appointment.
- Practice your [strong recommendation](#) using the [presumptive approach](#).
- Encourage your staff to [continue their education on HPV vaccination](#).
- Order free HPV vaccine [educational materials](#) from DPH and have them available for patients and parents during the 11-year-old well visit.
- Watch a [webinar on adolescent vaccination](#) moderated by Dr. Chelsea Clinton and featuring Dr. Paul Offit.
- [Post to social media](#) encouraging adolescent immunization.

# ADOLESCENT IMMUNIZATIONS

14 million new cases of HPV occur annually in the United States<sup>1</sup>



90% of HPV-related cancers can be prevented by HPV vaccination<sup>2</sup>

More parents are citing **safety concerns** when declining HPV vaccine<sup>3</sup>



1 in 7 parents haven't had any discussions about vaccines with their child's provider<sup>3</sup>

## HPV VAX WORKS!

- HPV infections have dropped since the vaccine has been in use
- Among teen girls, HPV infections that cause most HPV cancers and genital warts have dropped 88%
- Studies show long-lasting protection from HPV vaccine<sup>4</sup>

## RESOURCES

- [Continuing Education-HPV](#)
- [Talking to parents about vaccines](#)
- [Parental Refusal](#)
- [Responding to misinformation](#)
- [Adolescent handouts](#)
- [2023 immunization schedule](#)
- [Join the HPV workgroup!](#)

1 CDC. (2021). [Human Papillomavirus](#)  
 2 CDC (2022). [Cancers caused by HPV](#)  
 3 C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. (2022). [Mott Poll Report](#)  
 4 CDC. (2021). [Reasons to get HPV Vaccine.](#)

## SELF-CHECK

- Are parents or patients asking questions during their visit?
- Have I reviewed common questions about vaccines and prepared answers?
- How do I react when hearing misconceptions?
- What resources do I have available for parents and their adolescents?
- Am I aware of any language barriers?
- Do I have patient education materials available?

## National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is April 24 – 30, 2023

NIIW highlights the importance of protecting infants and young children from vaccine-preventable diseases. CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that children stay on track with their well-child appointments and routine vaccinations. On-time vaccination is critical to provide protection against potentially life-threatening diseases.

View the Connecticut NIIW events happening across the state on our [webpage](#) in the events section!



## CT WiZ Public Portal – Improved!

[Coming in April](#) – The CT WiZ Public Portal is being updated to improve the user experience. The public will be able to access their immunization record securely online **even easier** than before! Updated overview and step by step instructions will be posted on our webpage at: [How do I access an immunization record on CT WiZ?](#). Check our webpage throughout the month for updates!

## Data Quality Corner

Please be mindful with entering patient names in your electronic health record (EHRs). To ensure accuracy and improve patient matching, please review the examples of patient name errors we have seen reported by providers to CT WiZ:

- Last name contains a digit instead of a letter O (zero) instead of O
- Generation (JR, SR, II) in the first name field. It should be in the last name field.
- Symbols such as \* . | | ?
- “Quotes” in the name
- The word ‘Transferred’ in the name
- Baby boy, Baby girl



If you find an error, you may correct the record in CT WiZ. If you have an EHR interface established, you may resend the message if able. If not, you may submit a [helpdesk ticket](#) and Select – Immunizations (CT WiZ). Thank you for ensuring accurate patient records in both your EHR and CT WiZ.

## Employee SPOTLIGHT

### Scott Legault, Health Program Assistant



Scott Legault is a Health Program Assistant with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). Before his career at DPH, Scott worked as a Laboratory Technician in the Department of Corrections for several years. For over 8 years, he has been working in the Immunizations Program at DPH. He has worked in many areas of the program including data entry, compliancy reports, outreach coordinator, and most recently his work focuses on helping vaccine providers. Scott hosts live HL7 and User-Interface trainings weekly for all new and existing providers, educating them on how to use the Immunization Information System (CT WiZ) for inventory management which includes placing orders, managing inventory on hand, and troubleshooting. In addition, he reviews and approves CVP, Adult and CoVP provider enrollments for the program. Scott's favorite part of his job is helping to guide providers on how to use CT WiZ for a better user experience. In his spare time, he enjoys being active playing in soccer leagues, snowboarding, running, and spending time with his three children and his family.

## PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

### Village Pediatrics, Westport

Collaborating with the local public health workforce, creating initiatives to promote human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in a practice, and getting adolescents up-to-date on their Immunizations – that is a win/win/win situation! That is just what Dr. Jennifer Gruen and her staff at Village Pediatrics in Westport did by participating in the “Win/Win/Win with the BIG 3” initiative and taking it one step further. The Win/Win/Win initiative is a campaign by the Immunization Action Plan (IAP) program at Norwalk Health Department to promote adolescent immunization, including HPV. Not only does this initiative help in getting adolescents up-to-date, it also gives them the opportunity to be entered into a raffle to win a free iPad if they received their vaccines.

However, the work Village Pediatrics is doing to promote HPV vaccination goes far beyond a single initiative. For them, it is engrained in their workflow and practice culture. While the providers reinforce the first HPV vaccine dose at age 11, by age 9 they start discussing the vaccines they are going to be getting in the future and why they are important – and all staff are involved. Dr. Gruen shared “I really need to commend my staff because what we have done is established a workflow where we educate at every encounter. The medical assistants talk about it, the nurses talk about it, the doctors talk about it. The staff works tirelessly to promote it.” The practice also utilizes their website for immunizations and has a section describing which vaccines are due at every age. While education goes a long way, getting the patients in is also incredibly important. To ensure they are getting adolescents in, the practice runs monthly reminder/recall reports for HPV and calls patients that are due or overdue for their HPV vaccines to get them into the office. Second doses are scheduled after the first, but the report captures children who may fall through the cracks and ensures they remain up-to-date.

While there are still hesitant parents to contend with, Dr. Gruen remains dedicated to educating both the parents and children. “So many parents think of HPV as an STD vaccine. I present it as a cancer-preventing vaccine. We only have two vaccines that prevent cancer – hepatitis B (HepB) and HPV. We give HepB to babies. I reinforce that HPV is safe and is cancer prevention” says Dr. Gruen. She and her staff ensure their office is a pro-vaccine atmosphere and that they continue to educate at all available opportunities. For others who are interested in using similar initiatives in their office, *Dr. Gruen has advice: “Set up a good recall system. Set up monthly recalls for HPV where you can pull in patients due for a first or second dose and contact them to bring them into the office.”* A simple but effective approach to getting adolescents vaccinated, which is always a WIN!

For more information on the work Village Pediatrics is doing, please visit their [website](#). To learn how to run your own reminder recall in CT WiZ, please see [running your own reminder/recall report](#).



Village Pediatrics staff at Halloween.