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Subject: Celebrate Adolescent Immunization Action Week, April 3rd-7th



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

March 27, 2023

The second annual [Adolescent Immunization Action Week](#) (AIAW) will take place April 3rd–7th. 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 7th 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.

What can you do this week?

- Read the attached 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.
- Check out [adolescent immunization events](#) happening near you.

For the CT DPH Immunization Program, visit: [Contact Us](#)

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ADOLESCENT IMMUNIZATIONS

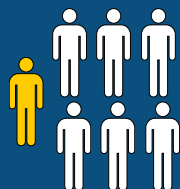
14 million new cases of HPV occur annually in the United States ¹



90%

of HPV-related cancers can be prevented by HPV vaccination ²

More parents are citing **safety concerns** when declining HPV vaccine ³



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

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?

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 ⁴

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](#).