



RISK-BASED VACCINATIONS FOR ADOLESCENTS

Risk-based vaccines are for adolescents who have underlying conditions or risks that make them especially vulnerable to certain diseases. Your doctor can tell you if your preteen or teen is at risk and should get vaccinated. **Know what vaccines your children should be getting. It could save their lives.**

At-a-Glance

Risk-Based Immunizations for Adolescents

Health officials recommend that all adolescents with certain conditions or risk factors get these vaccines if they did not already get them in early childhood.

Disease

Hepatitis A
Pneumococcal disease

Vaccine

HepA
Polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (PPSV)

To access the CDC immunization schedule that includes HepA and PPSV recommendations for adolescents, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/>

Hepatitis A (Hep A)

Hepatitis A is a viral liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). It is spread when a person eats food or drinks water that has come in contact with infected stool. For example, it can spread if someone with HAV doesn't wash their hands after using the bathroom and then cooks or prepares food for other people. It can also spread through sexual contact. While it is less common in the U.S., the disease is very common in other parts of the world, including Central and South America, Mexico, Africa, eastern Europe and Asia (except Japan).

Hepatitis A vaccine is routinely given to young children; however, it is only recommended for certain high-risk adolescents and adults. The most common reason for adolescents to be vaccinated against hepatitis A is if they travel to places where there is high rate of disease.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms include jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes), tiredness, stomach pain, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhea (frequent watery bowel movements), dark urine and light colored bowel movements. Some people don't have symptoms at all, but they are still contagious to others.

RISK-BASED VACCINATIONS FOR ADOLESCENTS

What is the vaccination schedule for at-risk adolescents?

Health officials recommend the vaccine for children and adolescents who live in states or communities where routine vaccination has been implemented because of the high rate of hepatitis A, or for individuals traveling to countries with high or intermediate rate of the disease. If you are traveling, you can help keep your family safe by asking your doctor about which vaccines your preteen or teen should get. You can also learn more at: www.cdc.gov.

Pneumococcal Disease

Pneumococcal disease is caused by a common bacteria (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*) or pneumococcus. Depending on what organ or part of the body is infected, it can lead to pneumonia, blood infection and meningitis. It can also cause middle ear infection and sinusitis. Most adolescents are not at risk for pneumococcal disease, but those with certain underlying medical conditions such as diabetes or chronic lung, heart, liver or kidney disease are vulnerable. Pneumococcal disease is spread by coughing, sneezing or direct contact with infected respiratory secretions.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms vary depending on the type of infection. The symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia include fever, cough, shortness of breath and chest pain. The symptoms of pneumococcal meningitis include stiff neck, fever, mental confusion, disorientation and sensitivity to light. The symptoms of pneumococcal blood infection may be similar to some of the symptoms of pneumonia and meningitis, along with joint pain and chills.

What is the vaccination schedule for at-risk adolescents?

The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) should be given to adolescents with the following: diabetes, lung, heart, kidney or liver disease; a cochlear implant or cerebrospinal fluid leaks; a weakened immune system due to such conditions as cancer or HIV infection; damaged or non-functioning spleen; sickle cell disease. Those who reside in chronic-care or long-term care facilities should also be vaccinated. Adolescents should receive this vaccine even if they received pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) as a child. Although not required, these at-risk adolescents can also receive the newer pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13).