

VACCINES FOR TEENS

What is a “required” vaccine?

A *required vaccine* is a vaccine mandated by law, most commonly for school entry or travel. These vaccines are required to help protect the community, as well as the individual, from life-threatening diseases.

What vaccines are required for 6th grade and older adolescents?

Michigan law requires schools to assess immunizations on ALL sixth graders and all students entering a new school district. Schools need documentation from a health professional of the following required immunizations:

- ✓ Complete series of diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT, Tdap or Td), with one dose in the last ten years.
- ✓ Three doses of polio vaccine (minimum)
- ✓ Two doses of measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine
- ✓ Three doses of hepatitis B vaccine
- ✓ One dose of chickenpox (varicella) vaccine (or date of chickenpox disease or blood test).

What is a “recommended” vaccine?

A recommended vaccine is a vaccine that is optional, not required by law. These vaccines are recommended by physicians and scientists to protect individuals from serious diseases.

What additional vaccines are recommended for ALL teenagers?

- ✓ A dose of Tdap is recommended, if more than two years have elapsed since the child’s last tetanus-containing vaccine and they have not had a previous dose of Tdap.
- ✓ One dose of Menactra, the meningococcal meningitis vaccine.
- ✓ The three dose series of Gardasil, the new Human Pailiomavirus vaccine (HPV) that protects against cervical cancer. Currently, this vaccine is only available for girls.
- ✓ As of 2006, two doses of varicella vaccine are highly recommended (but not required) prior to middle school.



Kalamazoo County

Health & Community Services