

Vaccinations for Preteens and Teens

Getting immunized is a lifelong, life-protecting job. Make sure you and your healthcare provider keep your immunizations up to date. Check to be sure you've had all the vaccinations you need.

Vaccine	Do you need it?
Chickenpox (varicella; Var)	Yes! If you haven't been vaccinated and haven't had chickenpox, you need 2 doses of this vaccine. Anybody who was vaccinated with only 1 dose should get a second dose.
COVID-19	Yes! You need to be vaccinated, even if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past. What vaccine you need now depends on current CDC recommendations.
Hepatitis A (HepA)	Yes! If you haven't been vaccinated, you need 2 doses of this vaccine. Anybody who was vaccinated with only 1 dose should get a second dose.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	Yes! This vaccine is recommended for all people age 0–18 years. You need a hepatitis B vaccine series if you have not already received it.
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Maybe. If you haven't been vaccinated against Hib and have a high-risk condition (such as a non-functioning spleen), you need this vaccine.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Yes! HPV vaccine is routinely given to preteens at age 11 or 12 but may be started at age 9. Older teens who haven't been vaccinated will need 2 or 3 doses. This vaccine protects against HPV, a common cause of genital warts and several types of cancer.
Influenza (Flu)	Yes! Everyone age 6 months and older needs annual influenza vaccination every fall or winter and for the rest of their lives.
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	Yes! You need 2 doses of MMR vaccine if you have not already received them. MMR vaccine is usually given in childhood.
Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY, MCV4)	Yes! All preteens and teens need 2 doses of MenACWY vaccine, the first at age 11–12 years and the second at age 16 years. If you are a first-year college student living in a residence hall, you need a dose of MenACWY if you never received it or received it when you were younger than 16. If you have a high-risk health condition, you will also need boosters if your risk is ongoing. Ask your healthcare provider if you have a risk factor.
Meningococcal B (MenB)	Yes! Teens who want to be protected from meningitis type B are recommended to receive 2 doses of MenB vaccine starting at age 16. Teens with certain risk conditions (such as a non-functioning spleen) should be vaccinated also, and receive boosters if their risk is ongoing. Ask your healthcare provider if you have a risk factor.
Pneumococcal (Pneumovax, PPSV23; Prevnar, PCV)	Maybe. Do you have an ongoing health condition? If so, check with your healthcare provider to find out if you need one or both of the pneumococcal vaccines.
Polio (IPV)	Yes! You need a series of at least 3 doses of polio vaccine if you have not already received them. Polio vaccine is usually given in childhood.
Tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough (Tdap; Td)	Yes! All preteens and teens (and adults!) need a dose of Tdap vaccine, a vaccine that protects you from tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough (pertussis). After getting a dose of Tdap, you will need a Tdap or tetanus-diphtheria (Td) shot every ten years. If you become pregnant, you will need another dose of Tdap during every pregnancy, preferably during the third trimester.

Will you be traveling outside the United States? Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list for travel information, or consult a travel clinic.