

To Hoosier parents and guardians:

August 2025

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) strives to protect the health and safety of Hoosier children, so we want to make you aware of vaccines recommended for adolescents that protect against diseases, such as pertussis (whooping cough), human papillomavirus (HPV), meningococcal disease and influenza (flu).

Vaccines required for children ages 11-12 include Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), meningococcal (MCV4), and hepatitis A*, and recommended vaccines include HPV, COVID, and influenza**.

These vaccines are safe, effective and can be given during the same office visit. We urge you to review this important information and contact your child's healthcare provider with any questions.

**Hepatitis A is recommended for adolescents over age 1.*

***Influenza is recommended for all individuals older than 6 months.*

HPV

- Can cause 33,000 preventable cases of cancer in the U.S. each year

Pertussis (whooping cough)

- One in three cases are adolescents between the ages of 11-19

Meningococcal disease

- 21% of cases occur in people ages 11-24
- 10-15% of those individuals will die from the illness

Influenza

- Affects 5-20% of the U.S. population each year
- More than 200,000 hospitalizations occur annually due to influenza



Vaccines aren't just for young children.

Adolescents need protection from communicable diseases, too.

Where can my child receive these vaccines?

These vaccines are available from your child's healthcare provider. Pharmacies can also administer vaccines to children ages 11 and older.

If your child does not have health insurance or has a health insurance plan that does not cover vac-

Disease name	Vaccine name	How is this disease spread?	What are the symptoms of this disease?	What are the complications of this disease?
Tetanus (Lockjaw)	Tdap vaccine	Bacteria found in soil, dust and manure through exposure to cuts in skin	Stiffness, muscle spasms, fever	Broken bones, difficulty breathing, possible fatality
Diphtheria	Tdap vaccine	Bacterial infection spread through direct contact with droplets from infected person through coughing or sneezing	Sore throat, mild fever, weakness, swollen glands	Damage to heart muscle, difficulty breathing, respiratory and heart failure, possible fatality
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	Tdap vaccine	Bacterial infection spread through direct contact with droplets from infected person through coughing or sneezing	Severe cough with "whooping" sound, runny nose, vomiting from severe coughing	Pneumonia, loss of bladder control, rib fractures, possible fatality
Human papilloma virus (HPV)	HPV9 vaccine	Contagious virus spread through intimate skin-to-skin contact	Often no symptoms but some are warts, pre-cancerous or cancerous lesions of mouth, throat, cervix, anus, penis, or other areas	Cancers of mouth, throat, cervix, anus, and genital regions, genital warts, and possible fatality from cancer
Meningococcal disease	MCV4 and meningococcal B vaccine(s)	Exchange of nose and throat droplets through coughing, sneezing, kissing, sharing utensils, etc.	Headache, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, confusion, sleepiness	Meningitis, bloodstream infection, hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, loss of limbs, possible fatality
Influenza	Seasonal influenza vaccine	Contagious virus spread through droplets from infected person coughing or sneezing	Sudden onset of symptoms including fever, chills, dry cough, headache, runny nose, sore throat, muscle and joint	Extreme fatigue, hospitalization, pneumonia, possible fatality
Hepatitis A	Hepatitis A vaccine	Contagious virus usually spread by fecal (stool)-oral route, can be spread by close contact with infected person	Fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin/eyes), cola-colored urine, clay-colored stools	Hospitalization, possible fatality

*The HPV9 vaccine is highly effective at preventing cervical precancers, but it does not eliminate the need for routine cervical cancer screenings (Pap test) as recommended by a healthcare provider. This screening is important because it can detect early precancerous changes so treatment can begin before cancer develops.