



## **A CUP OF HEALTH WITH CDC**

### ***Big Kids Need Shots Too***

*National and State Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents aged 13-17 Years – United States, 2012*

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*[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[Dr. Gaynes] Welcome to *A Cup of Health with CDC*, a weekly feature of the *MMWR*, the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. I'm your host, Dr. Robert Gaynes.

Just because your kids are getting older doesn't mean you can mark vaccines off your "to do" list. Pre-teens and teens need to stay up-to-date on their shots.

Dr. Robin Curtis is a pediatrician with CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. She's joining us today to discuss the importance of keeping older children up-to-date for recommended vaccines. Welcome to the show, Robin.

[Dr. Curtis] Thank you for having me, Bob.

[Dr. Gaynes] Robin, what shots are recommended for older children?

[Dr. Curtis] At ages 11 through 12, vaccines are recommended to protect against cancers caused by HPV, as well as to prevent tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and meningitis. In addition, it's important to remember that everyone in the family should get a flu vaccine each year.

[Dr. Gaynes] Are any of these required for school attendance?

[Dr. Curtis] Each state establishes its own school requirements. Most states require Tdap vaccination but it's important to remember that at the time a Tdap vaccine is given that children should also receive meningococcal vaccine and HPV vaccine.

[Dr. Gaynes] Are most kids up-to-date with these three vaccines?

[Dr. Curtis] There is some good news and some not so good news. Most kids have received Tdap vaccination but we still need to ensure that our kids receive meningococcal vaccine and complete the HPV vaccine series.

[Dr. Gaynes] What if an older child is behind on recommended vaccines?

[Dr. Curtis] Parents should check every year with their children's providers to ensure that their children have received all the vaccines recommended for them. If a child is behind, for any reason, providers can help get the kids caught up. Every time your child sees a health care provider, ask if they're up-to-date on their vaccines.

[Dr. Gaynes] Robin, where can listeners get more information about recommended vaccines for older children?

[Dr. Curtis] Listeners can go to [cdc.gov/vaccines/teens](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/teens).

[Dr. Gaynes] Thanks, Robin. I've been talking today with CDC's Dr. Robin Curtis about the importance of keeping older children up-to-date on recommended vaccines.

Remember - Until your kids are vaccinated, they're at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases. Every time your children see a health care provider, ask if they need any vaccines.

Until next time, be well. This is Dr. Robert Gaynes for *A Cup of Health with CDC*.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.