

## PROTECT ALL YOUR PATIENTS THROUGH VACCINATION

Immunizations protect patients from serious, and sometimes deadly, diseases. Administering vaccines according to the recommended immunization schedule is an important part of keeping your patients healthy and reducing their risk of certain infections and related complications.

Every year, thousands of Americans suffer serious health problems, are hospitalized, and even die from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines. These diseases include shingles, influenza, pneumococcal disease, hepatitis A, hepatitis B-related chronic liver disease and liver cancer, HPV-related cancers and genital warts, pertussis (“whooping cough”), tetanus and more. Adult vaccination rates are extremely low, and HPV vaccination rates among adolescents continue to lag behind those of the Tdap and meningococcal vaccines.

Clinicians are the most valued and trusted source of vaccine information for parents and adult patients. Your patients rely on you to protect them and their family by strongly recommending vaccines they need when they need them.

It’s crucial to assess immunization status and recommend needed vaccines at every clinical encounter. Recommending and administering necessary vaccines during the same healthcare visit eliminates missed opportunities and increases vaccine uptake. Clinicians who don’t stock all needed vaccines should make the recommendation and refer patients to a vaccinating provider.

Remind parents and patients that vaccination is important because it not only protects the person receiving the vaccine, but also helps prevent the spread of certain diseases, especially to those that are most vulnerable to serious complications, such as infants and young children, elderly, and those with weakened immune systems.

**A clinician’s recommendation is one of the strongest predictors of patients getting vaccinated. Strongly recommend the vaccines your patients need when they need them.**

Most private health insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program helps provide vaccines to children whose parents or guardians may not be able to afford them. Medicare and Medicaid also cover a number of vaccines for adults.

**To learn more about the vaccines your patients need, download CDC’s immunization schedule at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp> or download CDC’s Immunization Schedule app. To find vaccine providers in your area, go to [vaccine.healthmap.org](http://vaccine.healthmap.org).**

### Measles in U.S.

Between January and July 2014, there were over 500 cases of measles reported in the U.S., *the most cases reported since 1996.*

- Due to the success of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, many of today’s physicians may have never seen a case of measles, and therefore, may not recognize its signs and symptoms.
- Although we often think of measles as a childhood disease, many of the cases of measles this year have been in unvaccinated adults.

**These recent measles outbreaks underscore the importance of vaccinating all of your patients according to the recommended schedule.**