



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

Dear Parent,

The Erie County Health Department in collaboration with the WNY Pediatric and Adolescent Immunization Coalition would like you to be **aware of the immunizations that are important for your adolescent.**

We recognize the importance of immunizing adolescents to protect against deadly disease. Under-immunized children can become victims to diseases that many think no longer exist. There are many adolescent diseases we are able to prevent today that we were unable to prevent 10 years ago. Immunizations provide protection for adolescents, yet United States immunization rates remain far below national goals, especially for completing the HPV 3 dose series and the second Varicella dose.

Immunizations provide important benefits to adolescents, especially as they grow into adults. Increasing vaccination rates can reduce vaccine preventable diseases, including some forms of cancer, and limit the spread of infection to infants, children, other adolescents and the elderly in our community. Protection for one means protection for all.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the following immunizations for adolescents:

- Hepatitis A vaccine to protect against hepatitis A (two doses recommended)
- Hepatitis B vaccine to protect against hepatitis B (three doses recommended)
- HPV vaccine to protect against human papilloma virus (three doses recommended)
- MCV4 vaccine to protect against meningitis (one to two doses recommended based on age)
- Tdap vaccine to protect against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (one dose recommended)
- Varicella vaccine to protect against chickenpox (two doses recommended)
- Flu vaccine to protect against influenza virus (one dose recommended yearly)

We are asking you to please join our initiative in the prevention of disease among adolescents by reaching out to your provider and discussing with them the importance of **ALL** the above vaccines.

If you have any immunization questions please call the Erie County Health Department Immunization Action Plan Program at 858-2373.

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Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health