



BE COOL...IMMUNIZE FOR SCHOOL GET THE VACCINATION FACTS

The Allegheny County Health Department and the Allegheny County Immunization Coalition want you to know that immunizations provide important benefits to **school aged children**. Lower disease rates among school aged children may also lower the chance of spreading diseases to the very young and the elderly. While you can't protect your children from everything, you can protect them from vaccine preventable diseases.

Immunizations can help:

- Keep children healthy
- Prevent problems as they grow older
- Prevent the spread of disease

Immunizations protect school aged children from the following diseases.

- **Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Whooping Cough)** - Pertussis is spread by coughing and sneezing. Cases of pertussis are growing fast in adolescents and can be spread to infants. Five doses are recommended before the age of six years and a booster dose after eleven years of age.
- **Polio**- This disease can paralyze or cripple your child. Four doses are recommended before six years of age.
- **Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)** - The incidence of measles and mumps is increasing in the United States. Two doses of **MMR** vaccine are recommended for all school aged children.
- **Hepatitis B** - Three doses of vaccine are recommended for children to prevent long term liver disease and death.
- **Varicella (Chickenpox)** - Children who have never had chickenpox need two doses of the vaccine.
- **HPV (Human papillomavirus)** - HPV is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women.
- **Meningitis** - This bacterial infection poses a serious threat to adolescents. It can kill a person in less than 48 hours. Up to 1 in 5 survivors of meningitis have permanent disabilities including the loss of limbs, scarring, hearing loss and neurological damage. One dose is recommended for children eleven through eighteen years old.
- **Influenza** - One dose is recommended yearly.
- **Hepatitis A** - This disease could result in severe illness and is commonly spread through contaminated food and water, improper food handling and person to person contact.

We encourage you to check and make sure that your children are protected from vaccine preventable diseases. For more information contact your primary care physician or the Allegheny County Health Department at **412-578-8060**.