March 9, 2020

**Blast Communication**

**Georgia Preteen Vaccine Awareness Week**

**March 9-13, 2020**

The purpose of Georgia Preteen Vaccine Awareness Week is to help raise awareness and encourage preteens to make smart, healthy choices including defending themselves against vaccine-preventable diseases. Georgia’s preteens include more than 351,500 boys and girls between 10 and 14 years of age.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC currently recommends that 11 to 12-year-olds receive:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap)
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MenACWY)
- Influenza (flu)

Some preteens may also need to catch up on other immunizations for the following vaccine preventable diseases including chickenpox, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and hepatitis B.

**CDC recommends only two HPV shots for younger adolescents!**

The ACIP recommends 11- to 12-year-olds receive two doses of HPV vaccine at least six months apart, rather than the previously recommended three doses, to protect against cancers caused by HPV infections. Those who start the series later, at 15 through 26 years of age, or who are immunocompromised, will continue to need three doses.

**Georgia Department of Public Health Immunization Regulations**

According to the [Georgia Department of Public Health Rule (511-2-2)](https://www.dph.georgia.gov/index.cfm?option=rule&rule=511-2-2), children born on or after January 1, 2002 who are attending seventh grade, and children who are new entrants into a Georgia school in grades eight through 12, must have received one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY).

Effective July 1, 2020, children 16 years of age and older who are entering the 11th grade (including new entrants) must have received one booster dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday.

These laws affect all public and private schools including, but not limited to, charter schools, community schools, juvenile court schools and other alternative school settings (excluding homeschool).

**Georgia Preteen Vaccine Awareness Week Campaign Toolkit**

Preteens are at an age when they become more involved in decisions about their health. Such decisions set the foundation for a lifetime of healthy choices. In the following campaign toolkit are resources to help you promote Georgia Preteen Vaccine Awareness Week to media, your community, parents and other health care providers.