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## **UNITY Consortium Urges Parents to Get Adolescents Vaccinated as Part of National Immunization Awareness Month**

NEWTOWN, PA--(Marketwired - August 17, 2016) - As families across the country begin preparing for the new school year, UNITY Consortium is urging parents to make sure their adolescents are up-to-date on all recommended immunizations. August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), highlighting the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. NIAM is a good reminder to make adolescent health and immunization part of those back-to-school preparations. Research shows that that vaccination rates drop among adolescents and young adults ages 10 to 26.<sup>1</sup>

"Getting children vaccinated on time is one of the most important things parents can do to protect their children," said Paul Offit, MD, member of the UNITY Consortium and Director of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Vaccine Education Center. "Parents sometimes don't realize that adolescents and young adults still need vaccinations. NIAM is a great time to check with your healthcare provider to make sure your child is up to date on immunizations."

Every year, tens of thousands of individuals get sick from diseases that could have been prevented by vaccines. As children move into adolescence and gain new independence, parents sometimes feel they have less influence over their child's behaviors and decisions. But research shows parents play an important role in helping their children form and maintain healthy habits as they transition into adolescence and adulthood.<sup>2</sup> UNITY has developed a factsheet that provides tips to help parents communicate with their teen, and empower teens to be more active in managing their own health. The factsheet is available [here](#) or on UNITY's [website](#).

### **About UNITY Consortium**

The UNITY Consortium is a non-profit organization that brings together diverse groups that share a common interest in adolescent and young adult health with a focus on prevention and immunization. Members represent public and private organizations, industry, academia, and advocacy groups. By providing one strong voice in support of adolescent and young adult health, prevention and immunization, the UNITY Consortium focuses on addressing the unique challenges and barriers surrounding adolescent and young adult health. For more information, visit <http://www.unity4teenvax.org/>

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.who.int/immunization/global\\_vaccine\\_action\\_plan/GVAP\\_Introduction\\_and\\_Immunization\\_Landscape\\_Today.pdf](http://www.who.int/immunization/global_vaccine_action_plan/GVAP_Introduction_and_Immunization_Landscape_Today.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Albert, B. (2012). With one voice: America's adults and teens sound off about teen pregnancy. Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Retrieved August 9, 2016, from <http://thenationalcampaign.org/resource/one-voice-2012>

Attachment

Available: [http://www.marketwire.com/library/MwGo/2016/8/16/11G110806/unityfactsheet\\_061316\\_ConnectProtect\\_V3.3-b459127ece748a38baf09da44c173694.pdf](http://www.marketwire.com/library/MwGo/2016/8/16/11G110806/unityfactsheet_061316_ConnectProtect_V3.3-b459127ece748a38baf09da44c173694.pdf)

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