



Now is the time to catch up on adolescent vaccination

Many adolescents have missed annual well visits and immunizations in the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC recommends annual visits to the doctor for adolescents and young adults as many time-sensitive screenings and immunizations are given during these visits. But missed visits have resulted in a 20% decline in recommended adolescent vaccinations. The decline in recommended vaccination rates leaves teens susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases.

Now is the time to catch up on missed vaccinations. Vaccines are needed to safely return to school for in-person learning or to participate in other activities, such as sports and summer camps. Now that adolescents ages 12 and up are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, they can also get that at the same time.

Unity Consortium has launched its ***Don't Wait. Vaccinate.*** campaign to address these challenges. The initiative targets parents, adolescents and healthcare professionals to encourage well visits and accelerate catch up on any missed immunizations.

Parents and adolescents have expressed concerns about returning to the doctor's office for care during the pandemic. Physicians, clinics and pharmacies have taken steps to ensure the safety of patients coming to visit. This initiative reinforces those measures.

Our message is simple – **Don't wait. Vaccinate.** Our aim is to ensure adolescents and young adults get the screenings and immunizations they need for their health. Please visit the [campaign website](#) to access tools you can use to help spread the message.