**­Now is the time to catch up on adolescent vaccination**

Many adolescents missed annual well visits and immunizations during 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. Routine immunizations remain well below 2019 levels, and the decline in getting recommended vaccinations leaves teens susceptible to preventable diseases.

**Now is the time to catch up and stay up to date on vaccinations**. Vaccines are needed to participate safely in school and activities.

Adolescents are [recommended](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html) to receive COVID-19 vaccinations and can get routine vaccines at the same time. Real-world experience with billions of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered shows significant benefits with limited risks. Getting vaccinated is the safer choice than risking highly contagious variants. In June through July 2021, hospitalizations were 10X higher among unvaccinated adolescents vs. those fully vaccinated, according to CDC.

Unity Consortium’s ***Don’t Wait. Vaccinate.***resources can help address these challenges with messaging to parents, adolescents and healthcare professionals to encourage well visits and accelerate catch up on missed immunizations.

Parents and adolescents continue to express 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.

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 [Don't Wait. Vaccinate. website](https://www.unity4teenvax.org/dontwaitvaccinate/) to access tools you can use to help spread the message.

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