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**Don’t Wait. Vaccinate**

*UPDATED January 5, 2022*

Dear Healthcare Providers:

**Adolescents are going to school and activities with lower vaccine protection than in the past.** Routine immunizations remain below 2019 levels, with publicly insured adolescents especially lagging in recovery for meningitis and HPV vaccinations, **leaving them susceptible** to vaccine-preventable illnesses[[1]](#footnote-2).

According to Unity® Consortium[[2]](#footnote-3) Mom Advisors, it is difficult for Moms to prioritize adolescent well visits – especially during the pandemic. At the same time, parents remain concerned about safely returning to healthcare provider (HCP) settings. With these challenges, it is not surprising that **1 in 4 parents** say that well visits can wait or are not urgent right now (Unitysurvey, June 2021[[3]](#footnote-4)). These parental concerns are reflected in dramatic drops in annual adolescent well visits and immunizations during the pandemic. While visits are rebounding, much work remains for us to get back to pre-pandemic levels. **Adolescents and parents need their HCP’s help now to catch up and stay on track.**

In addition, the CDC recommends COVID-19 primary and booster vaccinations for adolescents and that “COVID-19 vaccines **may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines**. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day.”[[4]](#footnote-5)

**Remind parents to schedule well visits for their adolescents and keep them up to date on vaccinations such as meningococcal and HPV vaccines**.

Unity Consortium launched its **Don’t Wait. Vaccinate**campaign to address these challenges. HCPs can play a critical role by taking proactive steps now to reach out to parents and adolescents. Consider these actions:

* Assure parents about measures in place for safe in-person visits
* Remind parents to schedule well visits and vaccination
* Use electronic health records and vaccine registries
* Assess vaccination status during every adolescent visit to take advantage of all opportunities
* Partner with school and community organizations to increase awareness

**Now is the time to catch up and keep adolescents up to date on their vaccinations.** Unity’s **Don’t Wait. Vaccinate** [campaign toolkit](https://www.unity4teenvax.org/dontwaitvaccinatetoolkit/) can support your efforts. Together, we can make sure that our adolescents get the care and vaccines they need.



Signed,

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Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)

Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)

Indiana Immunization Coalition

International Adolescent Health Week

Learning First Alliance

The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Hispanic Medical Association

PatientPoint

School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA)

Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM)

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, HPV Cancer Prevention Program

Vaccinate Your Family

1. CDC, unpublished data [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Unity Consortium is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with diverse members and a common objective – to improve adolescent immunization coverage within the context of preventive health. Visit <https://www.unity4teenvax.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. COVID-19 Impact on Parent and Teen Beliefs toward Preventive Health and Vaccines Survey. 6/2021. Data on file, Unity Consortium. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html [↑](#footnote-ref-5)