

# Catch Up on Vaccines for All Ages

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted routine immunizations for children, adolescents and adults, according to the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#). You may hear from our members about catching up on delayed vaccinations. We've created [resources for them about staying current on routine vaccines](#). In coordination with Merck & Co., we've also reached out to some members reminding them to discuss vaccines with their providers. Examples of routine vaccinations include:

- **Influenza (flu) vaccine** annually for ages 6 months and older
- **Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine** for ages 9 to 14, or for ages 15 to 26 if not received earlier, to protect against some cancers
- **Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine** for ages 12 to 15 months; 4 to 6 years; and adults with no immunity or medical conditions
- **Pneumonia vaccine** for older adults and adults with health issues that weaken their immune system
- **Shingles vaccine** for adults ages 50 and older

See our [preventive care guidelines](#) on immunization schedules.

**COVID-19 vaccine:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the **COVID-19 vaccine** for [everyone ages 12 and older](#) and [booster shots in certain populations](#). The CDC says that [other vaccines may be given](#) with the COVID-19 vaccine. The Food and Drug Administration granted full approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 16 and older, and emergency use authorization (EUA) for ages 12 to 15. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines have EUA for ages 18 and older. COVID-19 vaccines may be approved for younger children this fall. We will update vaccination information on our website when this occurs. Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccines and coverage](#).

## Closing Care Gaps

As part of monitoring and helping improve quality of care, we track two measures related to immunizations. Both are Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measures from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

- [Child Immunization Status](#), which tracks the percentage of children who received by their 2nd birthday a total of four diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTaP); three polio (IPV); one MMR; three haemophilus influenza type B (HiB); three hepatitis B (Hep B); one varicella (VZV); four pneumococcal (PCV); one hepatitis A (Hep A); two or three rotavirus (RV); and two flu vaccines.
- [Immunizations for Adolescents](#), which tracks the percentage of 13-year-olds who had one dose of meningococcal vaccine; one tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap); and the complete HPV vaccine series by their 13th birthday.

## Tips to Consider

- Identify members who have missed vaccinations and contact them or their caregivers to schedule appointments.
- Check at each visit for any missing immunizations and deliver vaccines that are due.
- Address common misconceptions about vaccines.

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