



## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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## Send Your Child Back to School Protected from Serious Diseases

*National Immunization Awareness Month is a reminder that we all need vaccines throughout our lives.*

**Stanislaus County** back-to-school season is here. It's time for parents to gather school supplies and back packs. It's also a good time to make sure your children are up to date on their vaccines.

To celebrate the importance of immunizations for people of all ages – and make sure preteens and teens are protected with all the vaccines they need – the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency (SCHSA) is joining with partners nationwide in recognizing August as National Immunization Awareness Month.

“Getting children all of the vaccines recommended by CDC’s immunization schedule is one of the most important things parents can do to ensure a healthy future for their child,” said Dr. Julie Vaishampayan, Stanislaus County Public Health Officer. “If you haven’t done so already, now is the time to check with your doctor to find out what vaccines your child needs.”

Preteen and teen vaccines protect against serious and potentially life-threatening diseases, including cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningitis.

When children are not vaccinated, they are at increased risk for acquiring diseases that can spread to others in their classrooms and community – including babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated, and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer or other health conditions.

Preteens and teens need Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis or whooping cough), meningococcal, and HPV vaccines when they are 11 to 12 years old. A booster dose of meningococcal vaccine is recommended when teens are 16 years old. Teens and young adults (16 through 23 year olds) may also be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, preferably at 16 through 18 years old. In addition, yearly flu vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months or older—not just preteens and teens, but for their parents too.

Parents can find out more about the recommended vaccines at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/) or <http://www.schsa.org/PublicHealth/pages/immunization> or call (209) 558-7700.

Information regarding immunizations is available at the Health Services Agency Public Health Clinic or at our website [www.hsahealth.org](http://www.hsahealth.org).

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