

Name: _____

Vaccination Nation

The article “Menacing Meningitis” (page 23) notes that a vaccine can help prevent this infection in teens. What other shots do health officials recommend for teens? Check out this breakdown.

| Disease | Health effects | Vaccination schedule |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Chicken pox | Rash that can lead to a skin infection, brain swelling, and pneumonia; cases are worse in teens and adults than in children | Teens who never got vaccinated or never had chicken pox should get the shot. |
| Hepatitis | Can cause liver disease, sometimes fatal; two types (A and B) | The first dose is usually given at birth. The remaining two doses should be given by age 19. |
| Human papillomavirus (HPV) | A sexually transmitted virus that can cause cancer in rare cases | The three-step vaccine is recommended for girls by age 12 or before they become sexually active. Researchers are studying whether boys should be vaccinated too. |
| Influenza | Respiratory disease that can cause severe illness or death in rare cases | Annual flu shots are recommended between ages 6 months and 18 years. |
| Measles, mumps, and rubella | Can cause pneumonia, seizures, deafness, birth defects if spread to a pregnant woman, and death | Those who missed shots as children should get them as teens. |
| Meningitis | Bacterial form of this brain and spinal tissue infection can cause sudden death. | Teens who didn't get this shot by age 12 should get it as soon as possible. |
| Polio | Can cause paralysis or death | Teens who didn't get all four doses as young children should catch up on vaccination. |
| Whooping cough | A loud, prolonged, and painful cough; infection could be fatal for babies | The first dose is given to children; a booster shot should be given by age 12. |

Critical thinking question: Why might many vaccines be given when people are infants or young children? Why are some others, such as the vaccination against HPV, given when people are older?