



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section

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March 23, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** NCIP Participants

**FROM:** Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head  
Immunization Branch

**SUBJECT:** Adolescent Immunization Awareness Month - April 2011

The purpose of this memo is to encourage your practice to participate in Adolescent Immunization Awareness Month this April by planning activities that will educate and encourage adolescents in your community to be age-appropriately vaccinated.

The goal of Adolescent Immunization Awareness Month is to increase awareness about immunizations among adolescents. Several counties and practices in our state are planning activities which include advertising in local newspapers, on websites and on social media sites; partnering with schools to distribute information and host clinics; and reviewing the records of all 5th graders in their practices to determine who needs a vaccination and reminding them to come in for a visit. We hope your practice will consider making similar efforts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends adolescents receive vaccines to protect against:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis
- HPV
- Meningococcal
- Influenza
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Poliovirus
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella
- Varicella

Most of these vaccines are required when a child enters school for the first time in Kindergarten. A dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all children entering 6th grade or those who have reached 12 years of age on or after August 1, 2008 if five years or more have passed since their last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. A second dose of varicella vaccine, as well as vaccines for meningococcal, HPV, hepatitis A, and influenza and are not required but they are recommended for this age group.

The N.C. Immunization Branch has a variety of materials to help you educate parents and adolescents about vaccines. Log on to our website at: [www.immunizenc.com/materialsrequestform.htm](http://www.immunizenc.com/materialsrequestform.htm) to view, download and order educational materials for adolescents.

Thank you for your role in making this immunization awareness initiative successful!

CCs: SMT NC Immunization Branch NCIB Field Services