

Dear Parent,

The Tuscarawas County Health Department, New Philadelphia City Health Department and the Tuscarawas County School Nurses are joining forces to declare June as Teen Immunization Month.

Although new vaccines are available, immunization rates for teens in the United States are far below national goals. Immunizations provide important benefits to teens, especially as they grow into adults. Lower disease rates among teens may also lower their chances of passing diseases to the elderly, children and infants.

Immunizations can help:

- Keep teens healthy
- Prevent problems as they grow older
- Prevent the spread of disease

Today, immunizations protect teens from:

Hepatitis B

Meningitis (meningococcus) – This bacterial infection poses a serious threat to teens. Meningitis can kill a healthy person in 48 hours or less. Survivors of meningitis may have problems that last the rest of their lives.

Whooping cough (pertussis) – This disease is spread by coughing and sneezing. Anyone can catch pertussis and spread it to others.

HPV (human papilloma virus) – HPV is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women.

Chicken pox – This disease causes fever and rash, and in rare conditions, it may cause serious health problems.