A useful meningococcal disease discussion guide for your teen’s 16-year visit.

What should happen at my teen’s 16-year vaccine visit?

Get your teen the CDC-recommended second dose of the MenACWY vaccine. Vaccination is the best defense against meningococcal disease, yet half of teens have missed their second dose of the MenACWY vaccine at age 16.

The MenACWY vaccine helps to protect against four types of meningococcal bacteria, which cause meningococcal disease, often referred to as bacterial meningitis. This second dose helps provide essential protection for teens and young adults, during the ages in which they are at increased risk for contracting the disease.

Many parents are aware of the first dose of MenACWY at ages 11-12, but they don’t know the CDC recommends a second dose at age 16. In addition to the CDC-recommended second dose of MenACWY, it’s a good idea to speak to your teen’s doctor about other important vaccinations at your teen’s 16-year visit.

This includes the MenB vaccine, which helps protect against a commonly reported cause of meningococcal meningitis on U.S. college campuses in recent years.

Other important routinely recommended CDC vaccines help protect against human papillomavirus (HPV vaccine), tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap vaccine), and influenza (flu vaccine).

Routine vaccinations for adolescents include:
- HPV vaccine series, which is recommended at ages 11-12 and helps protect against cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), including cervical cancer.
- Tdap booster, which is recommended at ages 11-12 and helps protect against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.
- Flu vaccine, which is recommended every year.