



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Sept. 1, 2006

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ADOLESCENTS NEED BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOTS, TOO

11-12 Years of Age is an Appropriate Time for Several Immunizations

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) reminds parents that 11- and 12-year-olds need shots, too, just as younger children do.

"Shots are sometimes regarded as being for younger children only," said Nancy Bowen, M.D., County Health Officer. "But there are several immunizations that adolescents need. Parents should take advantage of every opportunity to get those shots."

"For instance, if the child is already scheduled for a back-to-school sports physical or other checkup, we urge parents to use that doctor visit to ask about any needed immunizations."

Needed shots include the Tdap (a tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis booster), MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) and the hepatitis B series if the youngster has not already received it.

Parents can call their child's doctor or clinic to see if any shots are needed. Or, they can call the Baby Shots Line at (888) 692-2575 during business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) to review their child's immunization record with a nurse. The Baby Shots Line can also provide referrals to low-cost immunization services.

For more information about immunizations and the diseases they protect against, please visit the San Diego County Immunization Initiative website at <http://www.immunization-sd.org> or call (619) 692-8661.

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