

St. Paul's School, Darjeeling

Importance and Benefits of Adolescent Immunization

Dear Parent,

I am writing to inform you about healthcare initiative school are planning for creating better healthcare environment.

Adolescence is a complex time. It is time of transition from healthy childhood to healthy adulthood. It is a period of extreme growth and change during which adolescents strive for independence and development. Hence, maintaining better healthcare is essential during this period. Building on this success by focusing on immunization can prevent many infectious diseases.

It's important to teach children how to make the right decision about behaviors such as smoking and drinking. As a parent, it is natural for you to do everything you can to protect your child. That's why we want you to know about the importance of preventing the diseases by vaccination to help you protect your child.

Achieving and maintaining high immunization rates is critical for disease prevention. The highly effective childhood immunization program has led to elimination of endemic transmission of polio, measles, and rubella viruses, while smallpox has been eradicated worldwide. These successes are rooted in widespread infant and toddler vaccination. Widespread immunization of adolescents can lead to similar positive results.

Vaccination has been recognized as one of the top 10 medical achievements of the 20th century. Vaccines recommended for adolescents are underused, leaving our nation's teens vulnerable to serious morbidity and even death. Due to unique setup of boarding school, boarders are at high risk of certain infectious diseases like meningococcal meningitis, influenza (H1N1 swine flu & seasonal flu) and typhoid.

Prevention Against Meningococcal Meningitis

Meningococcal Meningitis - Each case is alarming and potentially deadly. The incidence of meningococcal disease increases in adolescence and early adulthood. About 10-15% of adolescents who contract the disease will die, and about 20% will suffer from a long-term disability. Even when treated quickly and appropriately, meningococcal disease kills about 10 to

14 percent of adolescents and young adults infected, and 11 to 19 percent of survivors suffer serious long-term effects such as hearing loss, brain damage, and digit or limb amputation.

While Meningococcal disease is not as contagious as the common cold (which is spread through casual contact), it can be transmitted through saliva and occasionally through close, prolonged general contact with an infected person.

Even with antibiotics, approximately 1 in 10 victims of meningococcal meningitis will die; however, about as many survivors of the disease lose a limb or their hearing, or suffer permanent brain damage. Vaccination can prevent this serious and potentially fatal disease. The Vaccination against meningococcal meningitis is mandatory in many schools and universities in USA. The Association of Physician of India (API) also recommends vaccine to all adolescents living in dormitories/boarding schools. Dose of new conjugated meningococcal meningitis vaccine is once in a life time. For details about meningococcal meningitis and prevention, you can log on to www.voicesofmeningitis.com.

Prevention against seasonal influenza and H1N1 swine flu

Influenza (flu)

Burden - Compared to non-elderly adults, children have higher rates of visits to doctors, hospitalizations and deaths due to influenza. It can lead to high rates of school absenteeism. The burden greater in developing countries has been estimated to be as much as 15 times higher when compared to developed countries.

As per recent Association of Physicians of India (API) recommendations, Influenza vaccination is recommended for all adolescents as it contains the pandemic H1N1 strain. The vaccine can also prevent seasonal influenza and reduce the incidences of influenza like illnesses.

Benefits - Influenza vaccination helps reduce visits to doctors, hospitalizations and death to children. It also helps reducing the burden to the wider community. Studies have indicated that children are a source in the transmission of influenza in communities, households and sustain annual epidemics.

Economic Benefits - Economic evaluations of vaccinating children have generally found this strategy to be either cost-saving (i.e. costing less to perform than not to perform when taking

into account all the costs of influenza and its complications) or cost-beneficial, especially when applied to a wider perspective (i.e. including productivity losses).

Prevention against Typhoid Disease

Typhoid fever is prevalent in 2-3% of population. Prevalence could be higher in dense population since person may spread typhoid even after cured effectively. Typhoid causes a high fever, fatigue, weakness, stomach pains, headache, loss of appetite, and sometimes a rash. Some people who get typhoid become "carriers," who can spread the disease to others. Typhoid vaccine can prevent typhoid fever. Typhoid vaccine may safely be given at the same time as other vaccines.

Vaccine Price and Dosage indication


Vaccine	Dose	MRP	Special Price
Meningococcal Meningitis	Once in life	4950.00	4000.00
Influenza	Once in year	806.00	500.00
Typhoid	Once in three years	380.00	330.00

Price Includes Taxes. No separate charges for vaccination services.

Encl – Consent Form.

Please read and fill the consent form and send us back at earliest so that we can schedule vaccination accordingly. We will maintain the vaccination history for every student and will provide printed record when student leaves the campus after completion of the studies.

Regards,


School Principal


School Healthcare Professional

2016 MANDATORY CONSENT FORM

Name	
Class/Section	
Name Of Parent	
Parent's Contact No.	
Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Date of Vaccination	

Please check YES or NO to the following questions.

I Mr. /Mrs. / Dr have read the information I was given on influenza/ meningococcal

Brief Questionnaire	Yes	No
Has the child already been vaccinated against Influenza after Nov 2015 or meningococcal Conjugate vaccine?		
If 'Yes', mention vaccine name month/year _____		
Does your child suffer from severe egg allergy? (Influenza vaccine contraindicated only in severe egg allergy)		
Do you have any health problems or allergic disorders that require you to currently see a physician?		
Has your child ever had a serious reaction to any vaccine? If Yes, please explain _____		
Does your child suffer from any other major medical condition or neurological disorder?		

Conjugate vaccine/Typhoid . I have read & understood the benefits and the side effects of the vaccination. I understand that vaccination will be postponed if my child has fever, flu or acute illness on the day of vaccination. Feel free to consult your family doctor for any advice you may require.

I will not hold the School, Medical Officer / SPIPL responsible for any direct or indirect consequence as a result of application of this vaccine. I consent for the following vaccine to be given to my child in his/her school:

Vaccine Name	Mention Yes or No below
Influenza	
Meningococcal meningitis	
Typhoid	

Signature of parent:

Date: