



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CDC AND AAP RELEASE UPDATES FOR CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS**

The 2011 Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules were recently approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

The recommendations include some key changes parents should be aware of and discuss with their pediatric or family healthcare provider.

- The pneumococcal vaccine protects against pneumococcal meningitis and bacteremia, which can cause deafness and brain damage and result 100 deaths among children each year. This vaccine, previously known as Prevnar 7, has been updated to Prevnar 13. It now covers more disease strains. Babies who have completed Prevnar 7 need a booster. If your child is 18 months to 5 years old, he or she probably needs the booster.
- Meningococcal meningitis is contracted by 1,500 young adults each year. Over 10% of those with the disease do not survive. The meningococcal meningitis vaccine is generally given at age 11 or 12. Children who received the meningococcal meningitis vaccine before age 15 now need a booster at age 16 to 18.
- The Gardasil vaccine was previously approved for girls to prevent human papillomavirus (HPV) and reduce the incidence of cervical cancer. This vaccine is now approved for boys ages 9 to 18 in a three-dose series to prevent.

“Childhood immunizations provide protection for children from diseases that can cause serious health problems and even death in some cases,” explains Paula Coleman, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Livingston HealthCare. “Keeping up with your child’s immunizations is a critical part of protecting his or her health. Recent outbreaks of measles and whooping cough are a reminder of how quickly some of these diseases can come back to our communities.”

The updated schedules are available at [www.livingstonhealthcare.org](http://www.livingstonhealthcare.org) of [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Parents who have questions about these or other vaccines should talk to their healthcare provider.

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