Pharmacy Phacts

Immunization Awareness

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Important Facts!

- Vaccines help prevent the spread of diseases.
- Vaccines have led to a decline in several infectious diseases in the United States and around the world.
- Vaccination is safe and effective. It is the best way to protect yourself and others from preventable diseases.

How Vaccines Work

When a virus or bacteria enters your body it starts to reproduce. Your body responds by making proteins called antibodies. These antibodies work to destroy the disease. A vaccine allows these antibodies to be produced early so that if you are to come into contact with the disease, the antibodies are already there and working.

www.sjbmediate.com

www.med.navy.mil
Influenza:
- This vaccine protects against four influenza viruses: H1N1, H3N2, and 2 different strains of Type B.
- Flu season can begin as early as October and usually ends around May each year.
- It is recommended to receive the vaccine as soon as it is available EACH YEAR.
- All individuals 6 months and older should receive the vaccine.
- It is especially important for the following to receive the flu vaccine:
  - Children aged 6 months – 4 years
  - Pregnant women
  - People 50 years of age and older
  - People with chronic conditions such as asthma or diabetes
  - Immunosuppressed people such as those with HIV
  - People who live in nursing homes or long-term care facilities
  - People at high risk of contracting the flu such as healthcare providers

Pneumococcal (PPSV23):
- Helps prevent pneumonia caused by pneumococcus bacteria.
  - This disease is spread from person to person through the air
  - Children can carry the bacteria in their nose and throat without becoming sick. However, they can still spread the disease.
  - Usually mild but can be serious or even life threatening
- The PPSV23 vaccine is recommended for:
  - All adults who are older than 65 years old
  - People 2 years of age and older at high risk for disease (sickle cell disease, HIV/AIDS, lung disease, diabetes, or other immunocompromising conditions)
  - Adults age 19-64 that smoke or have asthma.
Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap):

- This vaccine protects against Tetanus (lockjaw), diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).
- Tetanus enters the body through cut, scratches or wounds while diphtheria and pertussis are spread from person to person through the air.
- Since vaccination began, tetanus and diphtheria have dropped by about 99% and pertussis by about 80%.
- One dose of Tdap is given at 11 – 18 years of age and individuals aged 19 and older should receive a booster dose (regardless of when the first dose was received).
  - If a dose was not received at these ages, one should be given as soon as possible.
- It is especially important for the following to receive the Tdap vaccine:
  - Healthcare providers
  - Pregnant women
  - Those coming into contact with children younger than 12 months old
- A Td booster vaccine should be received every 10 years.
  - Protects against tetanus and diphtheria

Herpes Zoster (Zostavax):

- This vaccine protects against shingles.
- Shingles is a painful disease that is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox.
- Most often shingles includes a painful rash with blisters that may occur anywhere on your body.
- Severe pain is the main symptom.
- The CDC recommends one dose of Zoster at age 60 or older.
- However, evidence shows benefit for a dose of Zoster vaccine in those age 50 or older.
- Others may benefit as designated by their primary provider.

www.influencenevada.org
References:
