

CAHC Immunization Project
Activities Implemented During the Project to Increase Adolescent Immunization Rates:

- Established a positive working relationship between the health center staff and school staff responsible for immunization review (nurses, secretaries and counselors)
- Reviewed MCIR and school records for deficient students and updated records as information was received or immunizations given
- Created an accurate database of immunization records and lists of deficient students if these were not already in existence
- Sent letters, consents and vaccine information sheets to parents of students with incomplete immunizations. Information also given directly to students to take home
- Used a recall system to remind parents of students who were incomplete
- Called parents and/or met individually with students to follow up on letters and verify immunization status
- Outreached to 5th grade students to assess for 6th grade immunization requirements
- Made announcements at school open houses
- Attended assemblies to educate and encourage students to get immunizations
- Included articles in school newsletters on new CDC vaccine recommendations for adolescents
- Provided immunization information at school events that parents attended including parent/teacher conferences
- Posters, brochures and fliers in CAHC's on adolescent immunizations
- Continual review of list of incomplete students and attempts to obtain records or consent to give necessary immunizations
- Notated immunization status on every CAHC visit. Audited this as part of a chart review to ensure notation of immunization status on every visit. Gave feedback to providers and other staff responsible for checking immunization status
- Had the problem list on the front of the chart with a blank for "Immunizations Current Until_____" that was reviewed at every visit
- Asked parents to send immunization records when scheduling CAHC appointments
- Immunization Days planned and implemented
- Staff recognition/incentives for identifying and immunizing deficient adolescents
- Encouraged return of vaccine records and update of immunization status by giving a coupon to students for a free treat when immunization status was up to date
- Entered adolescents into a drawing for a pizza party if they had their vaccines up to date

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Recommendations for Increasing Adolescent Immunization Rates:

1. Partner with the school principal, secretaries, school nurse, or other designated staff. Enlist their efforts to obtain current immunization records, identify deficient students, send information packets and make phone calls to parents.
2. Provide education and training to health center personnel on current recommendations for adolescent immunizations. Include adolescent immunization status as a quality improvement indicator.
3. Develop effective communication strategies to enable parents and adolescents to become knowledgeable about vaccines and preventable diseases as well as ways to access the health center for vaccinations. Use these strategies to promote other preventive health services offered through the health center.
4. Require parents to bring current immunization records to fall orientation/registration days for all students.
5. Have individual student immunization information (found in MCIR or school records) at fall orientations to identify students with incomplete records or deficiencies. This will allow school or CAHC staff to inform parents of the deficiencies, obtain copies of records, and get consent for immunization to be given in the CAHC right on the spot.
6. Hold new semester schedules, grades, or sports participation until current immunization record is received and/or immunizations are up to date.
7. Add language in health center consent forms to include parental consent for immunization administration.
8. Collaborate with local health departments to sponsor immunization clinics at the schools.