

Vaccine Confidence Resource for Schools - 7th Grade



What are vaccines?

Vaccines work by imitating an infection - the presence of a disease-causing organism in the body - to engage the body's natural defenses. The active ingredient in all vaccines is an antigen, the name for any substance that causes the immune system to begin producing antibodies. In a vaccine, the antigen could be either:

- Weakened or killed bacteria or viruses
- Bits of their exterior surface or genetic material, or
- Bacterial toxin treated to make it non-toxic

In Nevada, what vaccines are required for my 7th Grader to enter school?

- MenACWY (first dose) - Meningococcal vaccine
- Tdap - Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis

Are there any additional vaccines that are recommended for my adolescent?

- COVID-19 - One updated dose to be considered up to date. Continue to check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for updated recommendations [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
- Influenza - Annually, every fall or winter
- HPV - Human papillomavirus - 11-12 years of age - 2-3 doses, depending on when you begin the series. HPV vaccine is one that protects against cervical cancer, oropharyngeal cancers, and other cancers

What are the risks of not vaccinating my adolescent?

- Higher chances of your adolescent contracting a vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) and risk of giving a VPD to others who are unable to receive vaccines due to medical complications
- VPD side effects can range from mild symptoms to hospitalization or, in some circumstances, even death
- Missed school days for your adolescent
- Missed work days for you

How safe are vaccines?

Vaccines are one of the most rigorously tested medications on the market, and they continue to be monitored and researched long after they are approved. There are three phases of clinical trials, followed by an Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review, an Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) review, and finally continued post-approval safety monitoring and research. Vaccines may cause side effects, most of which will be mild, such as a sore arm at the injection site or a low-grade fever.

Where can I get my adolescent vaccinated?

If you are uninsured or have Medicaid:

- **Community Health Nurses and Local Health Authorities: [Rural Community Health Services Locations \(nv.gov\)](#)**
- **Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) - Find a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Nevada - [Health Centers | Nevada Primary Care Association | Nevada \(NVPCA.org\)](#)**

If you have private health insurance:

- **Pharmacy**
 - **Your primary care provider or pediatrician**
-

Who can I talk to about making the decision to vaccinate my adolescent?

- **Your primary care provider or pediatrician**
 - **Your adolescent's school nurse**
-

Additional Resources

- **[CHOP Vaccine Education Center](#)**
- **[Deciding to Vaccinate Your Child: Common Concerns | CDC](#)**
- **[Explaining How Vaccines Work | CDC](#)**
- **[Immunization Action Coalition](#)**
- **[Possible Side Effects from Vaccines | CDC](#)**
- **[U.S. Vaccine Safety - Overview, History, and How It Works | CDC](#)**
- **[Vaccinate Your Family](#)**

