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Pneumonia and influenza together are among the leading causes of death among adults over age 65 in the United States.

An estimated 36,000 people in the United States die each year from influenza-related complications. More than 90 percent of deaths occur in persons 65 and older.

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At least 50 percent of sexually active men and women acquire human papillomavirus (HPV) infection at some point in their lives. By age 50, at least 80 percent of women will have acquired genital HPV infection. About 6.2 million Americans get a new genital HPV infection each year.

In the United States, as many as 7 million women of childbearing age are susceptible to rubella which can lead to birth defects such as deafness, cataracts, and mental retardation.

Almost one third of reported pertussis cases are in adults.

Information About Adult Immunization

For more information visit the Georgia Immunization Program website http://dph.georgia.gov/immunization-section or call 404-657-3158
Common Questions About Adult Immunizations and Good Health

What Are Immunizations?
- Immunizations, also called vaccinations or shots, are a form of medicine made to protect you from diseases that can lead to severe illness, disability and in some cases, death.
- These medicines are usually given by injections (shots).

Aren’t Immunizations Just For Children?
- No. Immunizations begin at birth and continue throughout adulthood.
- Proper vaccinations are preventive measures that everyone should practice throughout their life.
- It is also important to remember that childhood diseases such as chickenpox, mumps and measles can be a much more serious health threat for adults.
- Each year, approximately 5,000 people in the United States die of hepatitis B virus (HBV)-related liver failure. Another 1,500 die from HBV-related liver cancer. HBV infection is the most common cause of liver cancer worldwide and ranks second only to cigarettes as the world’s leading cause of cancer.

Who Should Be Immunized?
- All adults need to be protected against a variety of vaccine preventable diseases, which may include influenza, pneumococcal disease, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, hepatitis A and B, chickenpox, measles, mumps, polio and rubella. By getting your vaccines, you are protecting your children, grandchildren and family.

Are Immunizations Safe?
- Yes, however, no vaccine is fully without risk.
- The chance of getting a disease and suffering its complications is greater than the chance of problems from the vaccine itself.
- It is important to remember that all vaccines are tested many times to ensure their safety.

Are There Any Common Side Effects To Immunizations?
- Yes, side effects sometimes occur: They may include a slight fever, headache, redness or tenderness, and swelling at the site of vaccination for a day or two.
- These side effects are mild and may not appear with each immunization.
- You should discuss any health concerns you have with your doctor or healthcare provider.

When Should I Be Immunized?
- You may need to be immunized with specific vaccines at different times during your life depending upon your health history, current health status and other existing risk factors.
- If you were never immunized or never contracted any of the preventable childhood diseases, you are also at risk and need to be vaccinated.
- Getting immunized is important throughout a person’s life.
- Don’t leave your doctor’s office without making sure that you have had all the immunizations you need.

How Do I Pay For Immunizations?
- Many health insurance plans, including Medicaid and Medicare, cover the cost of immunizations.
- Both the influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are covered by Medicare Part B.

Where Can I Get Immunized?
- You can get immunizations from your doctor or county health department.
- Call your healthcare provider to find out the time and place to get your vaccinations.
**Vaccinations For Adults**

**Hepatitis B**
- Causes liver damage, cancer or even death.
- Vaccination is recommended for those who travel outside the United States, certain laboratory workers, healthcare workers, students or travelers, and adults born in 1957 or after, if not previously vaccinated.

**Hepatitis A**
- Causes a highly contagious viral infection of the liver and is found in the stool of infected people.
- Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, jaundice, diarrhea, fatigue, stomach pain, dark urine, and appetite loss.
- Recommended for those who travel to certain areas outside the United States, people with at risk conditions, including alcoholics, illegal drug users, and men who have sex with men.

**Meningococcal Disease**
- Caused by bacteria that can infect the spinal cord, brain or bloodstream.
- Recommended for all adults 65 years or older and adults 19 years or older with certain medical conditions.

**Travel Vaccines**
- Persons who travel outside the United States may need additional vaccines.

**Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Vaccine</th>
<th>For Whom It Is Recommended</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>All persons ≥ 6 months of age with no medical contraindications</td>
<td>One dose per year, because the flu virus changes from year to year. October through November is the best time to receive a flu vaccination, but getting a flu vaccination in December, January or February can still protect you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>Recommended for those who have never had chickenpox</td>
<td>Two doses: First dose now. Second dose one month later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus, Diphtheria, acellular Pertussis (Td)</td>
<td>Unvaccinated persons 19 years and older. Unvaccinated adults who have or anticipate having close contact with an infant aged &lt; 12 months should receive a single dose of Tdap to reduce the risk for transmitting pertussis. Pregnant women should receive a Tdap vaccine between 27 and 36 weeks gestation (late 2nd or 3rd trimester) with each pregnancy.</td>
<td>If a person hasn’t had at least three basic tetanus-diphtheria shots in their lifetime, they need to complete the three dose series which should include one dose of Tdap, preferably the first dose. First dose now. Second dose one month later. Third dose six months after the second dose. A booster dose of Td should be given every 10 years after completion of the basic series, or earlier if needed for wound management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus Diphtheria (Td)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Papillomavirus (HPV)</td>
<td>All previously unvaccinated men and women 19 through 26 years of age</td>
<td>Three doses: First dose now. Second dose 4 weeks to 8 weeks after first dose. Third dose six months after first dose and at least 12 weeks after second dose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoster (Shingles)</td>
<td>Recommended for adults 60 years of age and older whether or not they report a prior episode of herpes zoster</td>
<td>One dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)</td>
<td>Adults born in 1957 or after, if not previously vaccinated. Healthcare workers, students or travelers may be required to be vaccinated, regardless of age.</td>
<td>One dose. A second dose may be required in some work or school settings, or for travel. If a second dose is needed, it should be given no sooner than one month after first dose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumococcal (Conjugate vaccine-PCV13) and (Polysaccharide vaccine-PPSV23)</td>
<td>Both PCV13 and PPSV23 should be routinely administered in series to all adults 65 years or older.</td>
<td>PCV13: Adults should get one dose of this vaccine before starting or continuing doses of PPSV23. It is recommended for all adults 65 years or older and adults 19 years or older with certain medical conditions. PPSV23: Adults should get one, two, or three doses of this vaccine, depending on their age, health condition, and timing of the first dose. It is recommended for all adults 65 years or older. Adults 19 years or older with certain health conditions and adults 19 years or older who smoke cigarettes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal</td>
<td>First year college students, 19-21 years, living in dormitories. Travelers to certain parts of Africa and Middle East. Adults who do not have a functional spleen or have a weakened immune system.</td>
<td>One dose. Booster to age 19-21 year old college student if previous dose given at age younger than 16 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A (Hep A)</td>
<td>Recommended for those who travel to certain areas outside the United States. People with at risk conditions. People with clotting disorders. Illegal drug users. Men who have sex with men. People with chronic liver disease, including Hepatitis C. Certain laboratory workers.</td>
<td>Two doses: First dose now. Second dose 6 months to 12 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Vaccines</td>
<td>Persons who travel outside the United States may need additional vaccines.</td>
<td>Consult with your healthcare professional about recommended and/or required vaccines.</td>
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*Consult your healthcare professional to determine your level of risk and need for this vaccine*
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