

Less than half of California's adolescents are immunized against meningococcal

[California School Nurses Organization](#) and County San Diego Health and Human Services Agency are teaming up to promote the national [Voices of Meningitis](#) campaign locally in San Diego. The campaign is targeted at improving low immunization rates for meningitis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination against meningitis for adolescents 11-18 years of age and college freshman living in dorms. Nationally only 48% of adolescents 13-17 years of age have been immunized; far below the CDC goal of 90%.

Did You Know?

1,000 to 2,600 Americans who get meningococcal disease each year will die. Death rates are up to five times higher among **teenagers** and **young adults** compared with other age groups. Of those who survive, one in five is left with serious medical problems, including

- ✓ 1,000 to 2,600 Americans who get meningococcal disease each year
- ✓ 10% of meningococcal cases result in death
- ✓ Death rates from meningococcal are 5 times higher among teenagers and young adults
- ✓ 1 in 5 meningococcal disease survivors experience permanent medical problems including amputation of limbs, brain damage, deafness, & organ damage

When should teens & adolescents be vaccinated against meningococcal?

Teens and adolescents 11-18 years of age should receive one dose of MCV4. Take advantage of all office visits with teens to screen and administer vaccines including MCV4, Tdap, and HPV.

- ✓ Well-visits, physicals, and check-ups
- ✓ Sick visits
- ✓ Follow-up visits

The San Diego Immunization Branch urges you to assess teens' immunization records and to ensure you have an adequate supply of vaccines. Please check the [healthcare provider section](#) of our website for a supply of -

- ✓ Posters for your clinic
- ✓ Educational materials for your patients
- ✓ immunization documentation products (including the San Diego Regional Immunization Registry – www.sdir.org)
- ✓ staff in-services on all immunization recommendations

Don't leave your patient's unprotected! Join the efforts of the National *Voices of Meningitis* campaign by vaccinating today.

Every healthcare visit is a vaccination opportunity.

www.SDIZ.org
www.VoicesOfMeningitis.org