



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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Get up to date with vaccines before school begins

(HARRISBURG, PA. July 16, 2020) August, designated as National Immunization Awareness Month, is almost upon us. The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) would like to take this opportunity to remind all Pennsylvanians to make sure they are up to date with immunizations. This is especially important for parents of school students.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's school immunization regulations are intended to ensure that children attending school in the commonwealth are adequately protected against potential outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases. These vaccination requirements include a combination form for diphtheria and tetanus; pertussis vaccination; combination form for measles, mumps, and rubella; and meningococcal conjugate vaccine for entry into 12th grade, or in an ungraded school, in the school year the child turns 18.

"Although many questions still remain about schooling in the fall, parents should make an appointment now with their children's pediatrician or family physician to receive these important vaccines as part of their annual well visit," said PAFP President Tracey Conti, MD. "This ensures the correct immunizations are administered, the required documentation is obtained, and that a trusted provider is available in the event of an adverse reaction.

"We appreciate patient concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic and want to assure Pennsylvanians that it's perfectly safe to visit their family physicians, especially to receive these vital vaccines," said Conti.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation is a physician-led organization committed to advancing quality healthcare through advocacy, education, workforce development and commitment to the patients we serve. For over 70 years and with over 6,000 physician, resident and student members, the Academy and its Foundation's core values are visionary leadership, integrity, and community.

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