

# Quality Report Card

Licking Memorial Health Systems



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PEDIATRIC CARE

## Vaccinations Offer Protection for Individuals of All Ages

Because of the success of vaccination over the past several decades, many people have never witnessed the devastating effects of vaccine-preventable diseases. However, the viruses and bacteria that cause these diseases still exist, and children in the United States and elsewhere remain vulnerable.

Experts agree that vaccination is the most effective way to protect children and adults from a variety of serious and potentially fatal diseases. Ensuring that children are properly vaccinated is an important step in protecting their own health, but it also supports the health of their friends, family and fellow community members by helping to limit the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines utilize the body's natural defense system to help it safely develop immunity to certain diseases, and are the most effective way to protect individuals from those diseases. One study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that children who are not immunized are 6 times more likely to contract whooping cough (pertussis) and 22 times more likely to be infected with measles than children who have received the proper immunizations. Some vaccine-preventable diseases can be deadly, or result in serious and long-term complications.

While the vaccine schedule is focused on young children, it is important to remember that

vaccine-preventable diseases can affect individuals of any age, particularly those with weakened immune systems and those who cannot receive vaccinations. For example, many diseases can have particularly severe effects among elderly individuals. Pneumonia increases the risk of heart attack and stroke in older adults, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that

between 80 and 90 percent of flu-related deaths occur in individuals age 65 and older. Ensuring that children receive the recommended vaccines helps to protect their grandparents in addition to a variety of other vulnerable individuals, including newborn babies, individuals with cancer, pregnant women and transplant recipients.

Vaccinations Offer Protection for Individuals of All Ages (continued to inside)



Similarly, elderly adults can help to protect their grandchildren and other individuals in their communities by ensuring that they have received all recommended vaccines as well. Many older adults have not received vaccinations for pneumonia, tetanus or shingles, and some skip the annual flu vaccine. However, receiving these vaccinations can help older adults to avoid contracting potentially serious illnesses and prevent the spread of those illnesses to infants, children and other vulnerable individuals. For example, the CDC recommends that all individuals ensure that they are up-to-date with the pertussis vaccination at least two weeks prior to coming into close contact with an infant.

It is important to follow the vaccination schedule recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention very carefully. There is no medical benefit to delaying vaccines, and doing so may pose various health risks. However, it is never too late for adults to receive vaccinations that they may have missed. Many insurance companies cover most immunizations, and financial assistance may be available. Contact your primary care physician immediately if you believe that you or your child have not received the recommended vaccines.

## Health Tips – Insect Repellent for Children

Outdoor activities are often plagued with bites from mosquitos and ticks, as well as chiggers, scabies and other parasites that can spread disease and cause itchy reactions. Many insect repellents are effective in preventing bug bites and have been shown to be safe for children when used as directed.

Most insect repellents, such as those with the active ingredient DEET, are approved for use on children as young as 2 months, but insect repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of 3 years. The label on each product should clearly state the safe ages for children's use.

Below are additional tips about using insect repellents on children:

- Choose a product that contains an EPA-approved insect repellent, such as DEET (up to 30 percent), picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, oil of citronella, or IR3535.
- Reapply every few hours according to the label's instructions.
- Do not apply to areas of the skin that are covered by clothing.
- If using in combination with sunscreen, apply the sunscreen first, then the insect repellent.
- Do not apply to the child's hands, eyes or mouth. Adults should apply the insect repellent onto their own hands before rubbing it onto the child's cheeks and forehead.
- Treated areas should be washed with soap and warm water upon returning indoors.



# Pediatric Care – How do we compare?

At Licking Memorial Health Systems (LMHS), we take pride in the care we provide. To monitor the quality of that care, we track specific quality measures and compare them to benchmark measures. Then, we publish them so you can draw your own conclusions regarding your healthcare choices.

- 1.** Immunizations are one of the safest and most effective methods to protect children from potentially serious childhood diseases. Licking Memorial Health Professionals (LMHP) monitor the percentage of children, aged 19 months to 35 months, who receive the individual and complete set of recommended immunizations. The series is frequently referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series. It consists of the following vaccines:
- 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw), and pertussis (whooping cough)
  - 3 doses of polio
  - 1 dose of measles, mumps and rubella
  - 3 doses of Haemophilus influenzae B (influenza type B)
  - 3 doses of hepatitis B
  - 1 dose of varicella (chicken pox)

	LMHP 2013	LMHP 2014	LMHP 2015	National <sup>(1)</sup>
Childhood immunization rate (4:3:1:3:3:1 series)	91%	91%	88%	75%
Children, aged 6 months to 18 years, receiving the influenza vaccination	2013-2014 45%	2014-2015 42%	2015-2016 35%	National <sup>(1)</sup> 58%

- 2.** LMHP providers follow Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccinations to prevent cervical cancer, varicella (chicken pox) and meningitis among adolescents.

	LMHP 2013	LMHP 2014	LMHP 2015	National
Female adolescents, aged 13 to 17 years, completing HPV vaccination series	53%	55%	55%	33% <sup>(2)</sup>
Adolescent children receiving varicella vaccination	95%	95%	96%	68% <sup>(3)</sup>
Adolescent children receiving meningococcal vaccination	87%	87%	88%	64% <sup>(1)</sup>

- 3.** Pharyngitis (sore throat) is a common illness in children. Most children's sore throats are caused by viral illnesses. While antibiotics are needed to treat bacterial pharyngitis, they are not useful in treating viral pharyngitis. Before antibiotics are prescribed, a simple diagnostic test needs to be performed to confirm the presence of a bacterial infection. Inappropriate use of antibiotics for viral pharyngitis is costly, ineffective and contributes to the development of drug-resistant bacterial strains. LMHP monitors and reports how many children with sore throats, aged 2 to 18 years of age, received a Group A streptococcus test before they were given a prescription for antibiotics.

	LMHP 2013	LMHP 2014	LMHP 2015	National <sup>(1)</sup>
Children with pharyngitis receiving test before antibiotics	95%	96%	95%	76%

- 4.** LMHP screens children, aged 9 to 11 years, for high blood cholesterol levels. Studies have shown that children who have high cholesterol are more likely to have high cholesterol as adults, placing them at increased risk for heart disease. By identifying at-risk children at a young age, families have an opportunity to make important lifestyle changes to diet and exercise to increase the likelihood their children will enjoy long and healthy lives.

	LMHP 2013	LMHP 2014	LMHP 2015	LMHP Goal
Children, aged 9 to 11 years, receiving cholesterol screening	65%	68%	65%	60%

- 5.** When a child arrives with suspected or known sexual abuse, the specially trained sexual assault response team (SART) conducts a comprehensive evaluation of the child, including use of forensic kits to gather evidence from sexual assault victims. Complete use of this kit ensures that evidence is collected properly and submitted to law enforcement for analysis.

	LMH 2013	LMH 2014	LMH 2015	LMH Goal
Forensic kit collection was complete for children treated for sexual abuse	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Data Footnotes:** (1) National Committee for Quality Assurance, "Improving Quality and Patient Experience – The State of Health Care Quality 2013." (2) Estimated Vaccination Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Doses Among Adolescents Aged 13-17, by State/Area; National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen), United States, 2012. (3) Estimated Vaccination Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Doses Among Adolescents Aged 13-17, by State/Area; National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen), United States, 2011.



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Please take a few minutes to read this month's report on **Pediatric Care**. You'll soon discover why Licking Memorial Hospital is measurably different ... for your health!

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