



Licking Memorial Health Systems

1320 West Main Street
Newark, Ohio 43055

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Quality Report Card

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Health Tips – Five Reasons to Vaccinate Your Child

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers the following information about children's vaccinations:

- 1. Immunizations can save your child's life.** Advances in medical science make it possible to protect your child from many diseases that could be serious, or even life-threatening.
- 2. Vaccination is very safe and effective.** Each vaccine goes through a lengthy testing process and is reviewed by scientists, physicians and other healthcare professionals. The small amount of discomfort and soreness that can result from vaccinations is minimal compared to the sicknesses that the vaccines prevent. Serious side effects to immunizations, such as allergic reactions, are very rare.
- 3. Immunization protects others.** By preventing disease, vaccinations will also prevent children from spreading disease to adults and other children whose immune systems may be compromised or undeveloped.
- 4. Immunizations can save time and money.** Some vaccine-preventable diseases can result in prolonged disability, which places a burden on the entire family's daily routine and finances. Most insurance companies cover the cost of immunizations, and programs are often available to assist families who do not have insurance.
- 5. Immunization protects future generations.** Vaccines have reduced, and in some cases, eliminated diseases that killed or severely disabled children just a few generations ago. For example, smallpox, rubella and polio once spread through neighborhoods, but are now seldom seen in the United States, thanks to widespread vaccination.

Pediatric Care – How do we compare?

Check out our Quality Report Cards online at www.LMHealth.org.

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 health care 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 2009	LMHP 2010	LMHP 2011	National ⁽¹⁾
Childhood immunization rate (4:3:1:3:3:1 series)	89%	91%	90%	67%
Children, aged 6 months to 18 years, receiving the influenza vaccination	N/A	N/A	LMHP 2010-2011 26%	National ⁽²⁾ 26%

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

	LMHP 2009	LMHP 2010	LMHP 2011	National
Female adolescents, aged 13 to 17 years, completing HPV vaccination series	41%	45%	48%	32% ⁽²⁾
Adolescent children receiving varicella vaccination	83%	90%	92%	58% ⁽²⁾
Adolescent children receiving meningococcal vaccination	67%	81%	81%	52% ⁽¹⁾

3 Pharyngitis (sore throat) is a common illness in children. The majority of 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 2009	LMHP 2010	LMHP 2011	National ⁽¹⁾
Children with pharyngitis receiving test before antibiotics	94%	96%	96%	73%

4 The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the use of reliever and corticosteroid medications to gain control of asthma attacks and reduce severity as quickly as possible. Reliever medications include drugs such as albuterol breathing treatments that can quickly open airways. Corticosteroid medications include drugs, such as Prednisone or Dexamethasone, that reduce airway inflammation and swelling. Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) measures how many pediatric asthma patients receive reliever and corticosteroid medications during their hospitalization.

	LMH 2009	LMH 2010	LMH 2011	National ⁽³⁾
Children receiving relievers while hospitalized for asthma	100%	100%	100%	100%
Children receiving systemic corticosteroid medication while hospitalized for asthma	100%	100%	100%	100%

5 If a patient must be readmitted to the Hospital within 30 days of treatment for asthma, there may have been a problem in the patient care, such as inadequate diagnosis, treatment, patient non-compliance with discharge instructions or the patient’s inability to understand or follow the discharge instructions. Since self-care is an essential part of asthma control, thorough patient education is important to maintain low readmission rates.

	LMH 2009	LMH 2010	LMH 2011	National ⁽⁴⁾
Pediatric asthma readmissions within 30 days	0%	0%	0.125%	0%

6 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 2009	LMH 2010	LMH 2011	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 (NCQA), *The State of Healthcare Quality 2011*. (2) National Immunization Survey (NIS) – Teen, United States, 2010. (3) *Hospitalcompare.hhs.gov* national benchmarks. (4) Midas comparative database.

Patient Story – Daugherty Family

With four small children, Pataskala resident Alison Daugherty’s days are cheerfully busy. She lovingly guides her three daughters and son through home and school life, and protects their health and safety in any way that she can. For that reason, she ensures that all of the children stay up-to-date on every immunization that is recommended by their pediatrician, John D. Applegate, D.O., of Licking Memorial Pediatrics, located on the Pataskala Health Campus, off Broad Street. “There was never any doubt in my mind about any of the vaccinations,” Alison said. “We want to follow the recommendations to ensure our family is as safe and healthy as possible. There is no reason not to be vaccinated, and risk being exposed to all those diseases.”



(The Daugherty family (left to right) – Mackenzie, Bentley, Alison, Ewan, Sophie and John – follow the recommended immunization schedule to keep their children as healthy as possible.

Alison and her husband, John Daugherty, D.D.S., moved to central Ohio from West Virginia in 2007, so that John could open a dental practice in Bexley. “Since we were new to the area, we did not know any doctors at first,” Alison recalled. “I met with a couple pediatricians, but they just were not a good fit for us. Then I did a little research on the Internet and found Dr. Applegate’s office was nearby. We met him and liked him right away. Now that we recently moved to Pataskala, he is only about one

mile away, so that is really convenient for us.”

Alison is grateful for the medical advances that have provided vaccinations for many childhood diseases. “My mother was really sick with the measles when she was young, and she often talks about how nice it is that our kids do not have to worry about that,” Alison remarked. “When I was little, I had chicken pox, and I passed it on to my brother. I am so glad that with the vaccine, my children are protected from chicken pox – with four kids, they would probably all get sick at the same time, and I am not sure how I would handle that!” she remarked.

The Daugherty children, Mackenzie, Sophie, Bentley and Ewan, range in ages from 3 to 8 years. Their immunizations have included vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough,

polio, measles, mumps, rubella, seasonal influenza, hepatitis B and chicken pox. Alison reported that none of the children have had any significant reactions to the vaccines. “There have been times that we were advised that one of the shots could cause a small bump or a mild fever, and it would develop, but that was all that happened.”

Patient Story – Daugherty family (continued on next page)

HPV Vaccine Recommendations Now Include Both Genders

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its vaccination recommendations to include teenage boys and young men among those who should receive immunization against the human papilloma virus (HPV). The first HPV vaccine, marketed under the brand name Gardisil, was initially recommended for adolescent girls and young women, beginning in 2006. Throughout the following five years, nearly 40 million doses of the vaccine were distributed.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends a three-dose HPV immunization for boys, as well as girls, beginning at the age of 11 or 12 years.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted viral infection. Overall, more than 100 types of HPV have been identified, and more than 40 types can be sexually transmitted. Depending on the type of HPV, infections can cause warts or cancer in the genital areas, as well as other body sites.

Four specific HPV strains, known as 16, 18, 31 and 45, have been shown to cause cervical cancer in women.

According to the CDC, an estimated 12,000 women in the U.S. are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, and at least 70 percent of those cancers are thought to be caused by HPV 16, 18, 31 and 45, which have also been linked to head and neck cancers in both men and women.

Gardisil vaccine, which protects against HPV 16, 18, 31 and 45, is administered in three doses. Under current CDC guidelines, all girls and boys should receive their first dose of Gardisil vaccine at the age of 11 or 12 years.

The second dose should follow one or two months later, and the final dose should be given six months after the first dose was administered. The CDC also recommends that teenage girls and young women, up to the age of 26 years, should be immunized if they did not receive the vaccine at an earlier age. Teenage boys and young men up to the age of 21 years should be immunized if they did not receive the vaccine at an earlier age.

Patient Story – Daugherty Family (continued from previous page)

“The Daughertys are a perfect example of preventive health care,” Dr. Applegate said. “By receiving the immunizations according to the schedule that is recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, their children are spared from many diseases that were very serious, and even deadly, in past generations.”

Dr. Applegate received special recognition from the Licking County Health Department in 2011 for his outstanding success in immunizing his young patients. During 2010, more than 90 percent of Dr. Applegate’s patients up to the age of 2 years were completely up-to-date on all immunizations. Diane M. LeMay, M.D., and Richard A. Baltisberger, M.D., both of Licking Memorial Pediatrics in Newark, have also received recognition for their outstanding vaccination rate success.

Recognition of Excellence – Childhood Immunizations

The Licking County Health Department has given special recognition to three Licking Memorial Pediatrics physicians for their outstanding achievement in immunizing their young patients.

- Diane M. LeMay, M.D. (2009)
- John D. Applegate, D.O. (2010)
- Richard N. Baltisberger, M.D. (2011)

These excellent pediatricians have improved the health of the community by ensuring that more than 90 percent of their patients are fully immunized by their second birthdays.



Diane M. LeMay, M.D.



John D. Applegate, D.O.



Richard N. Baltisberger, M.D.

