



# Wellness Check Informational Handout

## 15 -18 Year Check-Up

### Immunizations

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#### 15 Year:

##### Recommendations:

- TB Questionnaire
- Snellen - Vision Screening
- Hearing Screening
- PHQ-9 - Depression Screening
- Lipid Panel
- Dental Referral

#### 16 Year:

Menquadfi #2

##### Other Recommendations:

- TB Questionnaire
- Snellen - Vision Screening
- PHQ-9 - Depression Screening
- Dental Referral
- HIV Screening

#### 17 Year:

Bexsero (Meningitis B) - 2 Doses 1 Month Apart

##### Other Recommendations:

- TB Questionnaire

- Snellen - Vision Screening
- PHQ-9 - Depression Screening
- Dental Referral

## 18 Year:

### Recommendations:

- TB Questionnaire
- Snellen - Vision Screening
- Hearing Screening
- PHQ-9 - Depression Screening
- Lipid Panel
- Dental Referral

### Information about Gardasil:

**Gardasil** is the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine which is recommended for all children 11-12. Gardasil protects against 9 major types of HPV. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States. While most HPV infections do not cause symptoms, some strains **may cause genital warts, cervical cancer, throat cancer, and penile cancer**. This vaccine is recommended at age 11 because it is important for the child to become vaccinated BEFORE their 1st sexual encounter (before they have been exposed to the virus). While your child will probably wait many years before engaging in their 1st sexual contact, their partner may not have. By giving the vaccine now your child will only need two doses. If you wait until your child is over 15 years, they will require 3 doses. For more information, please visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## Nutrition

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Nutrition is very important to your health. As an adolescent, you are developing strong bones & muscles. You should be active in sports & exercise and you should be learning how to keep yourself healthy into your adulthood. You need to eat the right amounts of calories, carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins, & even fat.

### Dietary Guidelines:

The USDA 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines recommend a shift to a healthy diet that includes:

1. Nutrient dense foods such as a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, & fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products.
2. Lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, and eggs.
3. Decreased intake of saturated fat, trans fats, cholesterol, salt & added sugar.
4. Half of grains offered should be whole grains.
5. Drink water instead of sweetened drinks or juice, and switch to fat free (skim) or 1% milk.

This report also emphasizes the need for **daily exercise**. All children and adolescents should spend at least an hour a day in moderately vigorous exercise.

The U.S Department of Agriculture publishes dietary guidelines of foods important for a healthy, balanced daily diet. The following is a modification of the 2015-2020 USDA dietary guidelines for an adolescent aged 15-18.

Food Groups	Daily Recommendation	Tips
Grains: (at least 1/2 should be whole grain)	Males: 6-10 ounces Females: 6-8 ounces	One ounce is considered: A slice of bread or A cup of dry cereal or Half a cup of cooked rice, pasta, or cereal
Vegetables: (eat more dark green and orange vegetables, and more dry beans and peas)	Males: 2.5-4 cups Females: 2.5-3 cups	One cup is considered: A cup of cooked/raw vegetables or A cup of vegetable juice or 2 cups of green leafy vegetables 1 cup of cooked dry beans or peas
Fruits: (eat a variety of fruits, go easy on fruit juices)	Males: 2-2.5 cups Females: 1.5-2 cups	One cup is considered: A cup of fruit (fresh, frozen or canned) or One half cup of dried fruit or
Milk and Milk Products: (preferably low-fat)	Male & Female: 3 cups	One cup is considered: A cup of milk or yogurt or 1 ½ ounces of natural cheese or 2 ounces of processed cheese
Meat and Beans	Males: 6- 7 ounces Females: 5-6 ounces	One ounce is considered: An ounce of meat, poultry or fish (4 oz is about the size of a deck of cards) ¼ cup of cooked dry beans or One egg or A tablespoon of peanut butter or ½ ounce of nuts or seeds

Some teenagers are concerned about their weight. They worry that they do not weigh enough or that they weigh too much. It is important that you do not go to extremes. If you are concerned about your weight, the 1st step is to check with your provider. Overeating and obesity, anorexia & extreme dieting can cause major medical problems. If your doctor feels that your weight is a problem, she can give you specific advice. Here are some DO's and DON'Ts:

-DO eat healthy foods every day, including milk & calcium-rich foods. Use the FIVE-A-DAY rule to eat at least 5 servings of fruits & vegetables each day. Eat fiber-containing foods, such as fruits, vegetables, and grains, which can decrease cholesterol, heart disease, and the risk of some cancers.

-DO exercise and keep active.

-DO think about your long-term goals. Losing or gaining weight should be GRADUAL. If you lose weight quickly, you slow your metabolism and will gain back the weight. Most people gain back more than they lose.

-DO remember that what you weigh is NOT who you are. DO talk to your provider if you have questions.

-DO NOT go on fad diets, especially those with only one type of food or those that seriously decrease the amount of calories you are allowed to have.

-DO NOT skip meals, especially breakfast.

-DO NOT starve yourself, throw-up to decrease your weight, or take any "weight loss" medications without checking with your provider.

### Prevention of Eating Disorders:

Through the media we are inundated with unrealistic images and messages that stress extreme thinness as good and desirable. This pressure to be ultra-thin can lead to unhealthy and destructive behaviors and even eating disorders. Despite these pressures from the media, eating disorders can be prevented and parents can play a key role in this process. The following are some ways to create a healthy environment for the growth of your child's self-esteem and prevent negative self-destructive behavior:

- Give your family the gift of a healthy role model. Get comfortable with your own body no matter what size or shape it is. Never criticize your appearance or for that matter anyone else's appearance. This only teaches kids to be overly concerned about externals and critical of their own bodies.
- Emphasize the importance of fit and healthy bodies, not thin bodies.
- Praise children for who they are, their personal qualities and achievements - not how they look.
- NEVER DIET. The three most powerful risk factors for the development of eating disorders are (1) a parent who diets, (2) a sister who diets and (3) a friend who diets. Dieting does not work and sends a dangerous and unrealistic message to kids about quick-fix solutions. Instead focus on nutritious eating and fitness.
- Talk to your child about normal body changes with puberty. In particular, womanly curves are necessary for healthy childbearing in the future.
- Make mealtime enjoyable and relaxing. Don't forbid certain foods or become obsessed with too much attention on calorie counting.
- Talk to your child about unrealistic images they see in magazines and on TV. Inform them that some models have to resort to plastic surgery and eating disorders to achieve their "look".
- For more information go to [www.anred.com/prev.html](http://www.anred.com/prev.html)

If you have concerns that your son or daughter may be experiencing some early signs of an eating disorder, please schedule an appointment with your medical provider. Early detection and intervention is vital in promoting recovery.

## Development

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During your late teens, your body will reach its adult size & shape. Almost every part of your body has changed over the last few years. It is not unusual for you to have many questions about your body's changes. Your height and/or weight may be different than your friends. Your sexual development may also be different than your friend's. You may wonder why you have acne and your friend does not seem affected. You may have heard that masturbation is dangerous to you or may cause diseases or abnormalities (it does not cause any diseases and it is perfectly normal). Females: Your breasts may be smaller, larger, not developing as quickly, or developing sooner than your best friend's. Males: You may notice that other boys have larger or smaller penises, more or less hair, or smaller or larger muscles. You may see some boys who penises are circumcised and some that are not. Also, you may see some boys with breast development that later disappears. Most of these differences are NORMAL. Rest assured that everyone, even your parents, has had questions about these changes. Ask your provider or your parents if you are concerned. Even if you feel embarrassed, it is better to get the facts from someone, such as your provider, who knows. Your friends may not be able to give you the correct information.

### Puberty & Sexual Development:

**Females:** For most girls in the US, breast development begins between 9 & 11 years. As the breasts grow, pubic hair will begin to appear. The 1st menstrual period occurs about 2 years after breast development begins, but periods may be irregular for the first 1-2 years. There is a broad range of normal timing for puberty. Consult your child's provider if your teenage girl has not started breast development by age 13 or has not had her 1st menstrual period by age 16.

It is important that you become aware of your body and what is normal for you. Girls need to learn how to do a breast examination. Once a month (about a week after your period) while you are taking a bath or shower. Use soap & water on your breast to help you feel under the skin. Use the flat part of your hand and move in small circles in each quarter of your breast. Make sure to check under your arm and in the nipple area. Use your right hand to check your left breast and then switch to your left hand to check your right breast. Everyone has some lumpy places. As you check yourself, you will become more familiar with your normal texture and be able to tell if something is different than usual. If you notice a lump, nipple discharge, a dimple, or irregular texture, please see your provider.

**Males:** For most boys, puberty begins with enlargement of the scrotum & the lengthening of the penis, usually between 10-12 years old. Pubic hair appears as the penis and scrotum enlarge. There is a broad range of normal timing for puberty. Consult your son's provider if puberty changes do not start by age 14.

Boys should learn how to do a testicular self-exam. Once a month, while taking a bath or shower, use soap & water on your scrotum to help you feel inside the scrotal sac. Roll each testicle gently between the thumb & fingers of both hands. The testicles should be firm & smooth—like hard-boiled eggs without the shell. Feel for the small, comma-shaped cord (about the size of a pea) that is attached at the back of each testicle. This is a natural part of your testicles called the epididymis. Learn what it feels like so you will be able to know if something is different than usual. Check each testicle for lumps. If you find a lump, contact your provider immediately. Also, contact your provider if one of your testicles gets larger than the other, you have a dull ache in your groin that does not go away, or your testicles feel heavy. Not all lumps are cancer, but only your provider will be able to tell the difference. Do not let fear keep you from getting medical help. Testicular cancer is a serious problem that affects men 15-34 years-old. Nearly all cases of testicular cancer can be cured when found early.

### School, Sports & Peer Relationships:

High school is an important transition period. You will be expected to take more responsibility for your own work. You will need to keep track of all of your assignments & projects. You will need to get along with many different people including teachers and fellow students.

If you have a problem in school, either a conflict with a teacher or a difficult time with a subject, try to get some help. Ask for help at school or at home. There may be resources available specific to the problem you are having. The worst thing to do is to just ignore the problem, hoping it will go away—the problem usually gets worse.

It is good to exercise & be active daily. You may be interested in an organized sports program or may find an individual sport or activity that you enjoy. Try to find sports or activities that you enjoy and are willing to do regularly. A perfect exercise program is to do an aerobic-type activity for 20–30 minutes at least 3 times a week and a muscle-strengthening activity twice a week. You will want to find ones that you feel comfortable doing and that match your skills/abilities.

### Emotional Development & Safety:

As a part of becoming an adult, you will be learning to make your own decisions. Some of these decisions will not be too hard, but some will be very difficult and may have consequences that affect the rest of your life. The important thing is to get all of the information you need to make a good choice. Before making a decision that can have serious consequences, get the facts. Ask questions of your parents, teachers, doctors, or other adults that you trust. Do the research and look up information in the library, check the Internet (make sure the info is from a reliable source), and ask for books or pamphlets.

If you feel that things are out of control, if you are having a major conflict with your parents, if you feel angry often, if you have trouble sleeping, or if you have feelings that you might hurt yourself or someone, seek help from your provider. An experienced counselor can be very helpful. Sometimes it is much easier to talk about problems with someone outside of your family. Getting help does not mean you have failed. In fact, it shows a positive approach to improving a negative situation.

### Alcohol, Smoking & Drugs:

You are exposed to an ever changing & ever expanding world of illegal drug use. Illegal drugs are more dangerous & more easily accessible than ever before. You may find yourself in a situation where your friends or co-workers are tempting you to try recreational drugs or alcohol. You must decide for yourself whether to join in or not.

Your friends are an important part of your life. Being accepted can seem like the most important thing of all. Remember to maintain your principles, your own ideas of right & wrong. It is okay to question the things you learned from your parents, your grandparents, and your teachers—but use your good judgment to make appropriate choices. If your friends are involved in sex, drugs, drinking, &/or smoking, ask yourself hard questions: Are you just trying to be popular? What will be the consequences of those activities? How will you feel about yourself if you just follow the crowd? Can you make the choice not to do something you feel is wrong? Can you handle the consequences of participating or not participating in these activities? You must decide what is right for **you**.

## Sexual Activity:

Before you even think about having sex with another person, make sure you know how to protect yourself against pregnancy & sexually transmitted diseases including gonorrhea, herpes, syphilis, and AIDS. Do NOT rely completely on the advice and information from your friends—they may not have all the facts themselves and they may exaggerate or brag about their experiences. Or they might have information that is just wrong. Remember that abstinence from sex is still the best protection against sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.

## Car Safety:

Always wear your seat belt. When you are driving, you are responsible for EVERYONE in the vehicle. If they do not wear their seat-belt, YOU could get the ticket! If they do not want to wear them, tell them they can walk. Use good driving skills. Car accidents are still a major cause of death of teens & young adults. Never drive if you have been drinking alcohol or taking any drugs. Never ride with someone who has been drinking or taking drugs. Volunteer to be the designated driver if you go to a party.

# For Parents

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## Your Adolescent's Emotional Development:

The teenage years are a complex, challenging time for your adolescent as well as for the rest of your family. Your teenager is making an important transition from being a child to being an adult. He is becoming more independent & is learning to look at the world in new ways, comparing his ideas & values with those of others.

He may question things— including your household rules, your beliefs, & your authority. This is normal & is part of the maturing process, but keep in mind it is your responsibility to set appropriate limits. As your teenager is changing, changes in the family will also occur. However, even during the most stressful times, remember these basic ideas:

- Continue to listen to each other, even if you are on different sides of the fence.
- Do not confuse the thing you are unhappy about with the person who is doing it. At times, you may have strong feelings about your teenager's behavior, but this is not a sign that you have stopped loving your child.
- Avoid constant criticism. Pick the important battles and let the unimportant ones take care of themselves.
- Show interest in what he is doing. When there are disagreements, try to find a common ground or area of compromise. If nothing else, agree to disagree and be clear about where each of you stands and why.
- Do not preach & do not nag. Try to keep your conversations rational & respectful of your teenager's feelings.

If you feel that you have lost control because your teenager's behavior is so impulsive, antisocial, or self-destructive; seek help from your child's provider. A referral to an experienced counselor can be very helpful. An adolescent who will not listen to his parents will usually open up to someone outside the family who can take the time to develop a relationship with him & help him work through some of the problems that are leading to the inappropriate behaviors. Getting help for your family by using a

counselor, psychologist, or psychiatrist is not a sign that you have failed as a parent. This shows a positive approach to improving a negative situation. If you are not comfortable with a particular professional, discuss this with your teen's provider and request a referral to another person. You need a therapist who can work best with your family, your teenager, and the specific problems you may be having.

Your teenager's relationship with his peers will be very important over the next few years. Your child needs friends to test his ideas, actions, & roles. He probably worries about himself & whether he is normal. Most importantly, he just wants to be accepted. Although your teenager will be selecting friends from a variety of people (some you will like & some you will not), these choices are an important part of his development. If your teen's friends start experimenting with alcohol, drugs, or smoking, increase your attention. These friendships place your teen at higher risk for these behaviors. Your support and guidance is invaluable.

Most teenagers will feel much more comfortable spending time with you. If you have treated him fairly & consistently, you have given him room to grow. If you have continued to give him love (even during the most difficult times), he will probably enter adulthood with a strong, healthy attitude.

### Alcohol, Smoking & Drugs:

Although you cannot make the decision for them, you need to make sure they know in advance the dangers of experimenting with mood-altering drugs. It's important for you to get involved before a drug problem develops:

- Talk with him frequently about subjects relevant to his life, including drugs & how they play a role in his relationships to his peers. Give him the facts about the danger of drugs. Teach him to make independent judgments, no matter what his friends are doing or saying. Let him know how you feel about drugs.
- Remind him there are other ways to handle his feelings or problems without drugs. Most of all, let him know you will always be there to help with his problems.
- Build his self-esteem, praise his accomplishments.
- Encourage him to participate in enjoyable activities, which could help him from using drugs out of boredom.
- Let your teenager know that if he used drugs, you will take away valued privileges.
- Make sure your teenager knows the legal consequences of taking drugs.
- Set a good example by limiting your own use of alcohol & medications. If you drink at home, keep it at moderate levels and make it clear to your teenager that you do not use alcohol to cope with your problems. Never drink under unsafe conditions (such as when driving) or make light of excessive drinking.