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IN THIS ISSUE (starts on next page)

**In Brief: A Booster Dose of Meningococcal Vaccine
for Adolescents** p 37

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IN BRIEF

A Booster Dose of Meningococcal Vaccine for Adolescents

Evidence of waning immunity by 5 years post-vaccination has led the US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to recommend, in addition to a primary dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine at 11 or 12 years of age, a booster dose at age 16. Adolescents who receive a first dose of the vaccine at age 13-15 should receive a booster dose at 16-18 (before college). Those who receive their first dose at ≥ 16 years of age do not need a booster dose. Routine vaccination of healthy persons who are not at increased risk for exposure to *Neisseria meningitidis* is not recommended after age 21.¹

1. CDC. Updated recommendations for use of meningococcal conjugate vaccines — Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2010. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2011; 60:72.

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