



Protect the Circle of Life
***The CDC and the IHS Urge Native American Parents to Protect
Preteens with Recommended Vaccines***

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) is partnering with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to launch a campaign informing Native American parents and other caregivers about the importance of a **preteen medical check-up** and **preteen vaccines**.

One reason for this new focus is that Native American women have relatively high rates of cervical cancer, which can be prevented by the HPV vaccine. Nationwide, the cervical cancer rate for Native American women is 9.4 per 100,000, compared with 7.4 for non-Hispanic white women¹.

Since 2005, the CDC has recommended several vaccines for preteens:

- MCV4, which protects against meningococcal disease;
- Tdap, which is a booster against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis;
- The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which protects girls against the four types of HPV that cause 70% of cervical cancer and 90% of genital warts; and
- An annual influenza vaccine; and
- The vaccination against novel influenza (H1N1)

These preteen vaccine recommendations are supported by IHS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Society for Adolescent Medicine.

The CDC and the IHS have developed posters and flyers which can be ordered or downloaded free of charge from the campaign Web site at:

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/preteen/aian

These materials were created with input from Native American parents in the Southwest and the Pacific Northwest. We encourage you to distribute these materials to parents and other caregivers in your communities. Please visit the CDC website for additional information or contact Elizabeth Ryan, Senior Communication Program Manager for the Academy for Educational Development, at 202-884-8783 or eryan@aed.org.

¹ Wiggins, CL et al. Cancer Among American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States, 1999-2004. *Cancer*. 2008; 113(5 suppl):1142-52.