At your preteen’s or teen’s next visit, yearly checkup, or sports physical, talk to your child’s health care provider about any vaccines that are needed.

For more information visit www.scdhec.gov/scimmunize or www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens
Tdap vaccine
The tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine is a booster shot that helps protect your preteen or teen from three serious diseases: tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). This vaccine is recommended to be given at age 11 or 12 years.

Tetanus (lockjaw) is caused by a germ that enters the body through a cut or wound. Diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) are caused by germs that are spread through coughing or sneezing.

What else do I need to know?
• The Tdap vaccine has been studied very carefully and is safe.
• The Tdap vaccine may have mild side effects, like soreness or redness in the arm where the shot was given, headache, fever or tiredness.
• Serious side effects from the Tdap vaccine are rare.

Tdap vaccine is required for 7th grade entry in South Carolina schools.

HPV vaccine
The human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine protects both boys and girls from HPV infection and cancers caused by HPV infection. The vaccine is recommended to be given to all boys and girls at age 11 or 12 years. HPV vaccination is a series of shots given over several months.

The vaccine can be given up to age 26, but it provides better protection against cancer when given at age 11 or 12 years.

What else do I need to know?
• Research has shown that the HPV vaccines are safe.
• The HPV vaccine may have side effects such as pain, swelling, and redness in the upper arm where the shot was given. Some teens also have dizziness, fainting, nausea or headache.
• The HPV vaccine is not required for school entry in South Carolina.

Meningococcal vaccines
These vaccines help protect your preteen and teen from the bacteria that cause serious infections like meningitis (infection around the brain and spinal cord) and blood infections.

The bacteria can be spread easily from person to person by coughing, kissing or sharing food or drinks.

There are 2 types of vaccines that prevent meningitis.

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, or MCV4, protects against 4 types of the germs that cause meningitis.

All preteens should get one MCV4 shot when they are 11 or 12 years old. They should get a booster shot at age 16.

Serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, or Men B, protects against a different type of the germ that causes meningitis.

Teens and young adults ages 16 to 23 years may also be given the Men B shots. Men B vaccination is a series of shots given over several months.

The best age for teens to get the vaccine is ages 16 to 18 years.

What else do I need to know?
• Both vaccines can cause mild side effects, like redness and soreness in the arm where the shot was given, and fainting.
• The meningococcal vaccines are not required for K-12 school entry in South Carolina. They may be required for college entry depending on the school.