

Children's Health Minute

Air Dates: Week of August 6, 2006

"Has Your Child Been Vaccinated Against Hepatitis B?"

Dr. Hellerstedt: What do infants, pre-teens and adolescents have in common? They all need to be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

Hi, I'm Dr. John Hellerstedt with the Children's Health Minute -- connecting families with Children's Medicaid and CHIP.

US public health experts agree that children under 18 years old should be immunized against Hepatitis B. Anyone who has not been immunized can contract Hepatitis B if they are exposed to the virus. Hepatitis B is a serious disease that can lead to liver failure, liver cancer and even death. Proper immunization can prevent Hepatitis B infection.

Hepatitis B shots are typically given as part of routine infant immunizations, but you should make sure your older child or teenager has received all of their recommended vaccinations, including the ones for Hepatitis B.

Announcer: Health insurance is key to keeping your kids healthy. Call toll-free 1-877-KIDS NOW to apply or when it's time to renew your CHIP or Children's Medicaid. Six months of coverage for all your children costs just 50 dollars or less, but most families pay little or nothing. That's 1-877-KIDS NOW.