Protect Your Kids: Back-to-School Vaccinations

August is an exciting time as children, youth and parents start school. An important part of that preparation involves ensuring that your child is up to date on vaccines because it is important to vaccinate your children and vaccines are appropriate for children and young adults.

When and why should I vaccinate my child?

It is important to vaccinate your children because there are many diseases that still exist and are not eradicated. Vaccines work by teaching the immune system to recognize and fight certain diseases. When your child is vaccinated, the vaccine is a sub-dose of the disease causing bacteria or viruses that can be very dangerous. If your child is not vaccinated, they could get the disease. Children under the age of 18, including college students, are at highest risk of receiving a vaccine.

What vaccines should I get?

Certain vaccines are recommended for all children and young adults. These vaccines are recommended because they provide protection against some of the most common and serious diseases. The vaccines recommended for children include:

- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Tetanus
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Pneumococcal
- Influenza
- Varicella
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)

It is important to discuss your child's vaccination history with their healthcare provider and make sure they are up to date on all recommended vaccines.

Prejudice blamed for spike in AIDS among gay African men

(GIN/NPA)

AIDS researchers blame the medical journal Lancet the rising HIV rates among gay men in South Africa and blame prejudiced medical responders on how quickly and safely clear racial and gender identities. "The Lancet is a world leader in HIV research and practice," said an anonymous researcher.

The N.C. Resource Safety Program was created by the National Conference for North Carolina and is a collaboration of federal, state and local health agencies, emergency medical services and towing systems for the state.

As an incentive for completing the training, the National Conference for HIV, Treatment and Prevention, which will take place in July 2009, will offer a $250 gift card to the first five people who finish the course.

The training program includes a 30-minute DVD produced by the CDC that lays out standard response methods for the most common medical emergencies. Responders will be able to practice how to treat patients with HIV and AIDS in a simulated emergency.

"When someone is exposed to HIV, they must be treated immediately," said the researcher.

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Children aged 0-6 years

- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Tetanus
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

Children and adolescents aged 7-18 years

- Varicella
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Influenza
- Medi...