# Wellness Guide at **15-17 Years Old**



#### / Today's Stats & Immunizations —

Name:			Date:		
Weight	/	%	BMI (Body Mass Index)%		
Height	/	%	Blood pressure		
MCV	_ Flu	MenB	_ Other:		
Notes:			Follow-up Appt: Next Well Child Appt: (In 1 year or as advised by your Pediatrician)		
			Next Immunizations: Flu (annually), COVID (as eligible), MCV booster, finish MenB (if not done)		

# HELPFUL TIPS FOR THIS STAGE OF LIFE:

#### Development

- At this age, teens are at the highest risk for mental health problems. They are often faced with decisions regarding alcohol, vaping, drug use, sex, and other risky behaviors. Fighting, bullying, worsening academic or job performance, irritability, suicidal thoughts, and appearing overly anxious or sad may be signs of mood issues and substance use. Discuss ways to cope with stress.
- Anxiety or depression/mood issues may impact academic, behavioral and social functioning. Your pediatrician is available for consultation if you have concerns.
- Set positive examples and talk to your child about vaping, drugs, and alcohol. Parents should not underestimate their ability to positively influence opinions and decisions.
- Peers are an important source of information, and peer pressure can be positive or negative. Teach them that healthy relationships are built on respect and help them navigate friendships that are no longer mutually respectful.
- Be involved in your teen's life by knowing where they are and who their friends are. Spend time together doing something you both enjoy. Let your teen know they are loved, appreciated, respected and that you have confidence in them.
- Let them practice independent decision-making skills by communicating to reach agreements about family rules, limits, and expectations. Include discussions about bedtime, homework, T.V., chores, cell phone, etc.
- Parents can help by modeling healthy lifestyle behaviors and having open conversations with their teen.

# Safety

- Have a list of trusted adults you can call for help when faced with unsafe/uncomfortable situations.
- Driver's license: set expectations about the number of friends in the car and nighttime driving. Discuss avoiding multi-tasking and distractions while driving (cell phone, texting, reading). Discuss that it is important to never drink/smoke and drive or get into a vehicle with an impaired driver.

#### Safety (continued)

- Limit the volume on headphones, especially when walking to ensure cars can be heard.
- Use protective gear for sports.
- Concussions can occur when your teen has a head injury, collision, or fall. Symptoms vary and most teens do not lose consciousness. We can evaluate your teen for concerns and give advice on safe return to play. When in doubt, sit it out.
- Encourage helmet and seat belt use.
- Remove/lock up guns. Lock away cigarettes, lighters, alcohol, marijuana, and vaping devices.
- Monitor medications to keep teens safe from leftover opioids and other prescription meds.

# Digital Media Plan & Safety

- Establish rules for internet and phone use. Visit the AAP website to create a <u>Family Media Plan</u>. Discuss digital respect when posting on social media or texting. Bedtime and mealtime should be electronic-free zones.
- Screen time for homework and projects can often be prolonged. Research proves that multitasking with homework will result in work errors, longer to complete work, and mental fatigue from rapid task switching.
- Although internet/cell phones are often an essential social and recreational outlet, they may pose risks to privacy and personal safety. Do not give out personal information, share passwords, or physically meet someone you have only "met" on the internet. Make safe and respectful decisions about what you post/text/email. Do not text/email/share photos of anything you would not want forwarded to your parents. Remember that a sent text or photo cannot be "taken back". These decisions can affect your reputation, possibilities of future employment, and college opportunities.

#### Important Resources

- Crisis Text Line: Text "Hello" to 741741
- Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988
- Poison Control Center: (800) 222-1222

# Puberty & Relationships

- Various cultures/religions differ in their approach to puberty/ sexuality. Access to accurate and culturally appropriate information is essential for your teen.
- Encourage daily hygiene.
- Interpersonal relationships are evolving and experimentation can occur.
- Provide an opportunity for open communication. Talk to your teen about expectations, curfews, dating, and friendships.

# Body Image

- Young teens typically demonstrate an enhanced sensitivity to appearance. Clothing, accessories, and hairstyles are often used as a way to fit in with peers and express themselves.
- Be conscious about how you talk about food and appearances, as concerns with body image, dieting and weight may arise. Find ways to show appreciation of their healthy choices and efforts.
- Try providing healthy foods at home and allowing your teen to participate in food shopping or meal preparation.
- Continue to try to eat healthy family meals together at home.

#### School

- Academic struggles may be a sign of learning disabilities, attention deficits, stressors at home or school, substance use, or anxiety/depression. Consider discussing concerns with your teen's teacher/school or health care provider.
- Showing interest in their schoolwork and communicating with their teacher shows them you value their education and development.
- Encourage discussions about planning for college or potential career options.

#### Health

- Encourage calcium/Vitamin D/iron intake and balanced nutrition. Avoid sugar sweetened beverages and snacks.
- Make a dentist appointment.
- Use toothpaste with fluoride and encourage flossing.
- Encourage daily physical activity for the whole family. We recommend 60 minutes of exercise every day.
- A simple bedtime routine, proper sleep (8-10 hours), and daily breakfast allow your teen to reach their potential.

# **Overseas Travel**

If you will be traveling with your family overseas, talk with your doctor about travel questions, or you can request an online pretravel health consultation through our <u>eTravel Clinic</u>.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) Dose Table May repeat every 4 hours.							
Child's Weight (pounds)	60-71 lbs	72-95 lbs	96+ lbs				
Child's Weight (kilograms)	26.6-32.2 kg	32.7-43.1 kg	43.2+ kg				
Liquid 160 mg/ 5 milliliters (mL)	12.5 mL	15 mL	20 mL				
Liquid 160 mg/ 1 teaspoon (tsp)	2½ tsp	3 tsp	4 tsp				
Chewable 160 mg tablets	2½ tabs	3 tabs	4 tabs				
Adult 325 mg tablets	1 tab	1½ tabs	2 tabs				
Adult 500 mg tablets		1 tab	1 tab				

Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) Dose Table Do not use in infants under 6 months of age. May repeat every 6 hours.							
Child's Weight (pounds)	60-71 lbs	72-95 lbs	96+ lbs				
Child's Weight (kilograms)	26.6-32.2 kg	32.7-43.1 kg	43.2+ kg				
Liquid 100 mg/ 5 milliliters (mL)	12.5 mL	15 mL	20 mL				
Liquid 100 mg/ 1 teaspoon (tsp)	2½ tsp	3 tsp	4 tsp				
Chewable 100 mg tablets	2½ tabs	3 tabs	4 tabs				
Junior-strength 100 mg tablets	2½ tabs	3 tabs	4 tabs				
Adult 200 mg tablets	1 tab	1½ tabs	2 tabs				

# Questions or concerns?



Schedule your next visit on our website. AllegroPediatrics.com



A nurse is available 24 hours a day. (425) 827-4600



We have clinics open 7 days a week.