

## **Dr. Brull NIAM edited.mp4**

**Jen Brull, MD, FAAFP [00:00:09]** Vaccines are an important part of preventive care for patients of every age, because they help reduce morbidity and mortality no matter how old you are. What does that mean? It means that young people don't get illnesses that are preventable, which might lead to prolonged absences from school or even hospitalization. And older adults don't get illnesses that could lead to hospitalization or even death.

**Jen Brull, MD, FAAFP [00:00:40]** Family physicians provide a crucial role in providing vaccines for their patients and their communities, in that we are the trusted partners for patients of all ages. And, we are often a source of vaccine distribution in the community, so patients can come see their family doctor for any reason, from acute to chronic to preventive, and get vaccines that are needed at that time in their lives.

**Jen Brull, MD, FAAFP [00:01:10]** Family physicians are key to building vaccine confidence in patients and families because of the continuity of relationship that they have with patients. When a patient sees a family doctor for years and years for everything from sprained ankles to diabetes to well visits, they understand that when their doctor recommends a vaccine, that they have the patient's best interest at heart, and that they're thinking about the patient's entire health in the picture of that recommendation.

**Jen Brull, MD, FAAFP [00:01:46]** So many patients got behind on all sorts of preventive health items during the pandemic. Access to preventive care was significantly limited for a period of a couple of years. And so we have patients of all ages who are behind on all sorts of things. For young children who missed those going-to-school vaccines, it's really important to get them caught back up now that that access is wide open again. Kids going to school are going to encounter viruses and bacteria that they haven't seen before, especially as we were remote or virtual during the pandemic for school. And so getting kids caught back up means that they are safe and ready for in-person participation.

**Jen Brull, MD, FAAFP [00:02:37]** When we think about routine immunizations, we often think about young children, babies or kids going to school. And it turns out immunizations are important for grown ups, too. Getting your annual flu and Covid vaccine means that you're more likely to be able to go to work all year. Or more importantly, go play with family and friends during vacations and holidays. Getting your pneumonia vaccine, your shingles vaccine, your RSV vaccine as you age through your life means that you are less likely to be ill during important moments, and less likely to be hospitalized or even die from those illnesses. So we have to focus on both age groups--young children and adults.