

# Your Health Means Everything: Protect It with Immunizations

By Kenneth McVey, DO, Family Medicine Physician

If a researcher were to sit down at the end of 2021 and tabulate and record the number of times individual key words were mentioned over the course of the year, “vaccine” would surely be near the top. The advent of COVID-19 vaccines and the key role they have played in slowing the spread of the virus and helping us get closer to pandemic’s end has not only been at the forefront of global discourse but has also served as a reminder of how effective vaccination – or immunization, as it is also known – can be in protecting us from a number of illnesses both mild and severe.

Of all the things we have learned throughout this historic time, the one fact that perhaps can have the farthest-reaching impact for each of us individually and collectively is that our health means everything. It has always been true but

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## Ask a Doc



**QUESTION:** *What is the difference between “good” and “bad” cholesterol?*

**ANSWER:** Cholesterol travels through your bloodstream on “lipoproteins.” Your cholesterol levels reflect two different lipoprotein numbers. The first, LDL (low-density lipoprotein), is what is commonly referred to as the bad type and makes up most of your body’s cholesterol. High LDL levels can lead to plaque buildup in your arteries and put you at increased risk for heart disease and stroke. The second type, HDL (high-density lipoprotein), is known as the “good” cholesterol. These lipoproteins transport cholesterol from your arteries back to your liver, where it is then flushed out of your body. Unhealthy cholesterol levels – while unfortunately common – are treatable through simple healthy lifestyle changes or prescribed cholesterol-reducing medication. Talk with your provider about your cholesterol and the best ways for you to maintain healthy cholesterol levels. Call **800.424.DOCS (3627)** or visit **ClinchValleyHealth.com** to make an appointment with a provider.

**Kenneth McVey, DO,**  
is a family medicine  
physician.



# A note from the CEO

As we move into the second half of 2021 and continue to take steps back to a more normal way of life, I am reminded of just how far we have come from the beginning of the pandemic in March of last year. I am so proud of our providers, medical staff and employees for their tireless commitment to the health of our patients and community in the face of professional and personal hurdles. Whether it's caring for patients at the bedside, administering COVID-19 vaccines, keeping our facilities clean, ensuring nutritious meals for our patients and staff and every job in between, they are at the heart of our mission of Making Communities Healthier – not just during a challenging time but always.

Our vision includes creating a place where people – like you – choose to come for their healthcare. Your health means everything to us, and we are privileged to be able to help you get and stay healthy. From the importance of immunizations and knowing the different types of cholesterol to blood donations and getting the most out of your health insurance, this issue of *Making Communities Healthier* has timely and helpful info to aid you on your health journey.

It is an honor to have you as a neighbor and to call this community home.

Peter Mulkey

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perhaps never truer than now. We have been reminded of how fragile our health can be and how essential it is to do all that we can to protect it so that we can enjoy the things we love and take advantage of all that life has to offer.

One of the safest and most effective ways we can protect not only our health but the health of others is by getting vaccinated against preventable diseases. Immunizations are recommended for all ages, from birth through senior adulthood. Following recommended vaccination schedules can help ensure that you and your family stay healthy and protected from preventable serious disease. And it helps make your community healthier too, by reducing the spread of infectious diseases.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and a time when many of us are gearing up for another school year – perhaps in person for the first time since spring of 2020. So, it's a perfect time to check your child's immunization record, make sure they're up to date on recommended vaccines and make an appointment with their pediatrician to make up for any that are missed. And while you're checking on theirs, don't forget to double check yours, too. Adults can benefit from vaccines as well, including some that can help prevent illnesses like shingles, hepatitis A and B, and certain cancers that can result from disease infection. Below is a quick, at-a-glance breakdown of recommended vaccinations for different ages.

<b>Birth, 1-2 month, and 6-18 months (3 doses)</b> Hepatitis B	<b>2, 4, 6, 15-18 months and 4-6 years (5 doses)</b> DTaP (Tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough)
<b>2, 4 and 6 months (3 doses)</b> RV (Rotavirus)	<b>11-12 years</b> HPV (Human papillomavirus) (2 doses) Tdap (DTaP booster) MenACWY (Meningococcal disease)
<b>6 months and up</b> Influenza (yearly)	<b>16-18 years</b> MenACWY (booster)
<b>2, 4, 6-18 months and 4-6 years (4 doses)</b> IPV (Polio)	<b>15 years and up</b> (a good rule of thumb is to get a booster on the "5"s – 15,25,35, etc.) Tdap or td (Booster every 10 years)
<b>2, 4, 6 and 12-15 months (4 doses)</b> Hib (Haemophilus influenza type B) PVC13 (Pneumococcus)	<b>50 years and up</b> Zoster recombinant (Shingles)
<b>12-15 months and 4-6 years (2 doses)</b> MMR (Measles, mumps and rubella) Varicella (Chickenpox)	<b>65 years and up</b> PPSV23 (Pneumococcus)
<b>12-23 months (2 doses)</b> Hepatitis A	

Recommended vaccinations for children and adults alike may alter depending on factors like health conditions, lifestyle and other characteristics, so it's important to maintain a good dialogue with your primary care provider and pediatrician on which immunizations you should receive and when. And if you're an adult who may have missed some of the recommendations above, you may be able to get catch-up immunizations. Check with your provider about what's right for you.

Our health means everything, and immunizations can have tremendous benefits when it comes to protecting your health and that of your family and community. Make sure you're up to date on yours today. For more information on immunizations recommendations by age, visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)

*If you would like to speak with a provider about your or your child's immunizations, call 800.424.DOCS (3627) or visit the Find a Doctor tab at ClinchValleyHealth.com to make an appointment and get connected with the care you need.*



# Mission Moment

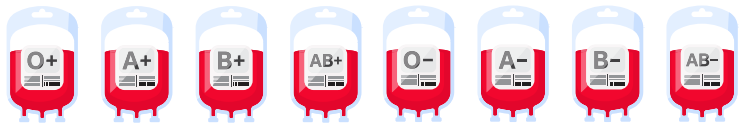
Vicky Lothery  
CODING SPECIALIST

Vicky Lothery has been recognized as the hospital's 2021 Mercy Award winner. The Mercy Award recognizes one employee from each of

LifePoint Health's hospitals who profoundly touches the lives of others and best represents the spirit and values on which the company was founded. The award is considered the highest honor a LifePoint employee can receive.

Vicky has been a volunteer with the American Cancer Society for 18 years and a Relay For Life team captain for 15 of those years. Vicky organizes and hosts multiple fundraisers throughout the year including uniform sales, t-shirt sales, raffle tickets, and paint night fundraisers.

Most recently, Vicky serves as the Survivor/Caregiver Lead. Vicky took this role and quickly became a blessing to local cancer survivors through her ability to make meaningful connections with every survivor and caregiver she meets.



# Donate Blood. Save a Life.

The American Red Cross is facing a severe national blood shortage and needs all eligible donors, especially those with type O blood and platelet donors, to give now and help save lives. Please consider making a donation and encourage your friends and loved ones to join you. You can streamline your experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete a pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire on the day of your appointment.

*Please call 276.596.6482 to make an appointment to donate blood at Clinch Valley Medical Center on August 10, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.*

# Getting the Most Out of Your Health Insurance

Taking care of your health may be more pocketbook-friendly than you think. Many health insurance plans offer regular checkups and age-specific preventive health screenings at little or no cost to you. And if you've met your deductible for 2021, your out-of-pocket costs for procedures could be minimal or zero.

With the second half of the year in full swing, now is a great time to book that checkup, schedule that screening or plan for that procedure before your deductible resets in January. Call 800.424.DOCS (3627) or visit [ClinchValleyHealth.com](http://ClinchValleyHealth.com) today to make an appointment.

SO MUCH is back.

Get your COVID-19 Vaccine

#VaccineHero

## Black Bean Burgers

A heart-healthy spin on a summer supper staple.

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|---|--|
| 1 15.5-oz can no-salt-added black beans, rinsed and drained | ½ tsp ground cumin   |
| 1 8.8-oz pouch brown rice, cooked                           | ¼ tsp salt   |
| 1 15-oz can sweet potatoes or yams in light syrup           | ¼ tsp ground black pepper  |
| 1 large egg white   | ½ cup whole-wheat or plain panko bread crumbs                        |
|   | 1 tbsp canola or corn oil and 1 tbsp canola or corn oil, divided use |

1. In medium bowl, stir together ½ cup beans and 1 cup rice. Set aside.
2. In a food processor or blender, process the remaining beans and rice, sweet potatoes, egg white, cumin, salt and pepper for 30 seconds to 1 minute.
3. Transfer the bean mixture to the bowl with the reserved beans and rice. Stir in the panko until well combined. Form into 6 patties.
4. In a medium nonstick skillet, heat 1 tbsp oil over medium-high heat, swirling to coat the bottom. Cook half of the patties for 4 minutes on both sides, or until slightly browned. Repeat with the remaining 1 tbsp oil and patties.

\*Recipe from the American Heart Association. Find more healthy recipes at [heart.org/recipes](http://heart.org/recipes)



## Meet Kenneth McVey, DO

Dr. McVey specializes in annual exams and wellness check-ups, sick visits, COPD, sports injuries, immunizations, blood pressure and diabetes as well as skin procedures. Dr. McVey will also manage his patients' care if they are hospitalized.

Dr. McVey is welcoming new patients at his office at Clinch Valley Physicians Associates, 1 Clinic Drive, Cedar Bluff, Va.

"My grandfather was a family physician for approximately 50 years," said Dr. McVey, "and my dad owned his own medical equipment company. The exposure I've had has highlighted how medical care can significantly improve one's quality of life. It's very hard to go anywhere in Southwest Virginia without hearing stories of how my grandfather has helped someone. My grandpa was and will always be my hero. My goal since graduating high school in 2009 has been to return to Richlands and follow in his footsteps."

Need a provider? Call 800.424.DOCS (3627) or visit [ClinchValleyHealth.com](http://ClinchValleyHealth.com) and click on the Find a Doctor tab. ■

*DISCLAIMER: \*The information and practices described in this newsletter are not intended as substitutes for a diagnosis or clinical or medical advice prescribed by a medical provider for an individual patient that is based on the individual's history, condition and current medical assessment. This information is not intended to be comprehensive about the subjects addressed and may include information that is time-sensitive and subject to change.*