



NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Reminder to parents: Schedule those back-to-school appointments *2014-2015 school immunization changes align with nationally recognized recommendations*

BLOOMINGTON, IL- The McLean County Health Department advises parents to schedule children's back-to-school immunizations and dental exams before school begins in mid-August.

According to Illinois School Code, all children entering school must be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, varicella, and hepatitis B. Last year, Illinois School Code added a requirement to show proof of receiving Tdap, the booster shot against pertussis, for children entering grades 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. For the 2014-2015 school year, Illinois School Code added a few more requirements to align with nationally recognized immunization recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- Children entering preschool or day care will be required to have the Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine to fight against an array of illness, from ear and sinus infection to lung infection, such as pneumonia, bloodstream infections, or spinal cord infections, such as meningitis.
- All students, grades Kindergarten through 12th grade, must show proof of receiving two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine.
- Kindergarten, 6th grade, and 9th grade students must show proof of receiving 2 doses of the Varicella vaccine, more commonly known as the Chicken Pox shot.
- Sixth grade students must show proof of receiving the Hepatitis B vaccine shot. Previously, it was required of 5th grade students and was changed this year to match the school physical schedule.

Check your children's Immunization Record or talk with your health care provider to assure these requirements are met. If your children received their school shots at the health department, call 309-888-5455.

The McLean County Health Department provides immunizations to all school-age children, including uninsured and under-insured families through the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The health department also provides shots to residents with private insurance, on Medicaid or Medicare, and those who wish to pay an out-of-pocket fee.

In addition to regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), the Immunizations Clinic within the McLean County Health Department will provide evening options in August to accommodate parents' schedules and back-to-school needs. The following dates will provide immunization appointments from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Aug. 4, Aug. 11, and Aug. 18. Please call 309-888-5455 to schedule an immunization appointment with the health department.

Other back-to-school requirements include:

Dental Exam: Children entering Kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 6th grade are required to receive an oral health exam and present proof of examination by a dentist by May 15 of the school year.

The children's dental clinic in the McLean County Health Department serves families who are without dental insurance or on Medicaid (All Kids). Experienced children's dentists and registered dental hygienists are available to families Monday-

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Thursday at the health department, providing exams, cleanings, fillings, fluoride treatments, and oral health education. Call 309-888-5479 to schedule your child's dental appointment.

Physicals: Required of Kindergarteners, 6th and 9th graders.

Eye Exam: Children entering Kindergarten are required to submit proof of exam to school no later than October 15 of the year the child is first enrolled.

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