

News Release



For more information, contact Pam Palm,
740-507-6533 or ppalm @knoxhealth.com

11660 Upper Gilchrist Rd. Mount Vernon, OH 43050
PH 740-392-2200 Fax 740-392-9613
www.knoxhealth.com

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Don't forget immunizations when heading back to school

Along with school supplies and new clothes, don't forget to make sure your children are up-to-date on their immunizations as they get ready to head back to school. The start of the new school year is a popular time to get immunizations, especially for those students heading into kindergarten. Plus this year, there's a new requirement for 7th and 12th graders.

The Knox County Health Department will offer two special walk-in clinics for immunizations: **Aug. 9** and **Aug 16**, from **2-6 p.m.** both days. These clinics are specifically for back-to-school immunizations. No other immunizations will be offered at these clinics. Attendees are requested to bring their shot record so that the new immunizations can be recorded for each child.

The following immunizations are required for the upcoming school year:

- **Kindergarten:** the full series of Dtap (diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis) and MMR (measles/mumps/rubella), polio, chickenpox, hepatitis B and varicella (hepatitis A is recommended.)
- **7th Grade:** all vaccines required for kindergarten, plus Tdap booster and meningitis. (hepatitis A and HPV are recommended).
- **12th Grade:** all vaccines required for kindergarten and 7th grade, plus meningitis (hepatitis A, hepatitis B and HPV are recommended).

The meningitis shot is a new requirement this year for 7th and 12th graders. While it's been available and recommended since 2005, this is the first year the meningitis vaccine is required for school attendance. For 12th graders, this will be a second dose booster of the meningococcal vaccine if a first dose was given prior to age 16, or it will be the first and only dose if there were no prior doses.

If you are unable to make the walk-in clinics, the health department offers all immunizations by appointment, Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. To make an appointment, contact the health department's community health clinic at 740-399-8009.

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