

**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Aug. 24, 2011

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### **New programs offer reduced cost vaccines for adults**

**(Lawrence, KS)** – Two programs providing reduced cost vaccines for adults without insurance or whose insurance doesn't cover vaccines are now available at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Clients eligible for these programs may receive vaccine for just the administrative cost of \$14.

The first program provides the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine to adults at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and is sponsored by Sanofi-Pasteur Company and AmeriCares organization.

With a recent resurgence of pertussis (whooping cough) infections around the United States and with vaccine immunity waning over time, it's important for adults to update their tetanus shot with Tdap vaccine, said Nurse Kathy Colson, Health Department immunization team leader.

Another program offers the MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), varicella and pneumococcal vaccines to adults who meet income guidelines provided by the Merck Company. The pneumococcal vaccine, which protects against blood and spinal fluid infections, is especially recommended for adults who smoke, have asthma or other chronic health conditions. The income guidelines for this program are very generous, Colson said.

"These programs are the first the Health Department has had to assist adults who otherwise may not be able to afford these necessary immunizations," Colson said. "Vaccines not only protect you, but those around you."

For more information, go to [www.ldchealth.org/immunizations.htm](http://www.ldchealth.org/immunizations.htm) or call (785) 843-0721.