

**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Contact:** Lisa V. Horn  
Communications Coordinator  
Office: (785) 843-3060

### **Immunize now for back-to-school shots**

**(Lawrence, KS)** – The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department urges Douglas County families with school-aged children to get vaccinated now for back-to-school immunizations.

The department also would like to inform the public of a special, limited program that will provide the Tdap vaccine (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) to Douglas County children whose birthdays fall between Sept. 1, 1997 and Aug. 31, 1998. There is a \$14 administrative fee, but no one is denied service due to inability to pay.

The program ends July 31, so parents are urged to come to the Health Department as soon as possible to take advantage of the program. Getting Tdap at age 11 rather than 15 is new for students entering Kansas schools for the 2009-2010 school year.

Other changes for the 2009-2010 school year are:

- Kindergarten students must have two varicella (chicken pox) vaccines in addition to the previously required Dtap (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis), IPV (Inactivated Polio Vaccine), MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) and Hepatitis B.
- Students through grade 9 must have three Hepatitis B vaccines and one varicella vaccine unless a written note from their doctor states that the child has had varicella disease.

Other recommended vaccines are also available at the Health Department. Beat the rush and get vaccinated now. For hours and more information, visit the department's Web site at [www.ldchealth.org](http://www.ldchealth.org)