

**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Check children's immunizations for back to school**

**(Lawrence, KS)** – One of the best ways parents can protect their children is to get them immunized.

As Lawrence and Douglas County students return to school in August, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department reminds parents to ensure their children have current immunizations.

Children entering Kansas schools during the 2008-2009 school year are required to be up to date on the following shots:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP) – Five doses are required, with a 10-year booster shot of Td/Tdap.
- Poliomyelitis (IPV/OPV) – Four doses required.
- Measles, mumps, rubella – Two doses required.
- Hepatitis B – Three doses required (through grade 5).
- Varicella (chicken pox) – One dose required (through grade 5), unless proof of prior varicella disease is provided. Two doses of the vaccine are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for *all* ages.

Changes to immunization requirements this year include Hepatitis B and varicella. Previously, these immunizations were required for third-graders and below, however, children up to the fifth grade are now required to have these immunizations. Additional grades will be added each school year to include all students.

While fulfilling school entry requirements, parents may also choose to have additional immunizations given to their children.

The following immunizations are recommended by ACIP, but are not required for school entry:

- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) – Four doses are recommended for children under 5.
- Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV7) – Four doses are recommended for children under 5.
- Hepatitis A – Two doses are recommended for all ages.
- Meningococcal (MCV4) – One dose is recommended for children ages 11 to 18.
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) – Three doses are recommended for girls 11 and older.
- Influenza – Yearly vaccination is recommended for all ages.

“It’s important to get immunizations early so you stay healthy throughout the school year,” said DeeAnne Schoenfeld, Immunization Charge Nurse. “Getting immunized is the best way to keep you, your friends and family healthy.”

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