

NEWS RELEASE
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Come in now for back-to-school immunizations

(Lawrence, KS) – Now is the time for families to beat the rush of back-to-school immunizations and to take advantage of a special program that will provide the immunization against chicken pox (varicella) at a reduced rate.

The Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) has been awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to provide varicella vaccine to adolescents ages 10 through 18 in need of a first or second dose of the immunization.

While there is no fee for the vaccine, there is a \$14 administration fee (the vaccine alone currently costs \$85). However, no one is denied service due to an inability to pay.

Kansas schools currently require a doctor's proof of previous history of the disease and depending on the child's grade level, one to two doses of the vaccine. Starting with the 2010-2011 school year, two doses of the vaccination will be required for kindergarteners and first graders. Currently, one dose is required for grades 2-10.

The American Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends two doses of the vaccine for all ages.

Adolescents ages 10-18 should take advantage of this opportunity to get the chicken pox vaccine at a reduced fee and not wait until it is required. No appointment is necessary. Clinic hours can be found at www.ldchealth.org/contactus.htm. Immunization forms can be filled out prior to the visit. These forms are available at www.ldchealth.org/immunizations.htm.