

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2011

Contact: Lisa V. Horn
Communications Coordinator
Office: (785) 856-7362

Chicken pox vaccine provided to area sixth graders

(Lawrence, KS) – The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department will begin a chicken pox vaccination program for Lawrence sixth graders today.

For the 2011-2012 school year, two doses of the varicella (chicken pox) vaccine will be required for all incoming seventh graders in the state of Kansas. For sixth graders in need of a first or second dose and with no history of the illness, special grant funding has made the vaccine available at school clinics at no cost to these students.

In preparation for the clinics, school nurses notified parents of sixth-grade students needing the vaccine and provided forms for them to receive the immunization.

Beginning at Deerfield Elementary School today, Health Department nurses will vaccinate all sixth graders in need of this immunization (who have filled out the appropriate paperwork ahead of time). An immunization clinic for Baldwin City sixth graders has been held, with a Eudora clinic scheduled at the end of April. More Lawrence clinics are scheduled throughout the month.

Adolescents, ages 10 to 18, who are not in the sixth grade, but in need of the varicella immunization, can take advantage of the vaccine's reduced rate of \$14 (the vaccine alone currently costs \$85) by visiting the Health Department. No appointment is necessary. For clinic hours, see the department's website at www.ldchealth.org/contactus.htm.

Parents are encouraged to ensure their children receive a chicken pox immunization now before the reduced rate for the varicella vaccine expires at the end of June.

-30-