

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Get Ready for Back-to-School Update Your Child's Vaccinations

**Lincoln** – The summer is quickly coming to a close and some parents and guardians have already started ticking off items on their back-to-school to-do lists.

As Nebraskans stock up on school supplies and prepare for the upcoming school year, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) wants to make sure parents don't forget about another important step: vaccinations.

Nebraska law requires children enrolling in kindergarten or first grade (depending on their school district's entering grade) and transfer students of any grade to have proof that they've received the following vaccinations:

- three doses of hepatitis B vaccine
- three doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine (DTaP)
- three doses of poliovirus vaccine (IPV)
- two doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR)
- two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine

Children entering seventh grade and transfer students of any grade must have received all of the vaccinations listed above, as well as one booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine.

Children enrolled in licensed child care and school-based pre-K programs also need to be up-to-date with their age-appropriate immunizations.

Parents with children heading to college may want to consider meningococcal vaccine. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, college freshmen, particularly those who live in residence halls, are at an increased risk for meningococcal disease. The vaccine can help prevent serious illnesses like bacterial meningitis. College freshmen and their parents should discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with their health care providers.

"Vaccinations are one of the most successful and cost-effective public health tools parents can use to help protect their children," said Judy Martin, Deputy Director of Public Health in DHHS. "Back-to-school time can be a busy time for physicians' offices and local immunization clinics so parents should schedule an appointment sooner versus later."

On a visit to a physician or immunization clinic, bring along a current list of your child's vaccinations. Parents can get copies of immunization records from their child's physician or through the [Nebraska State Immunization Information System](#), a secure, statewide database.

For more vaccination information, please contact DHHS' Immunization Program at 402-471-6423 or email [DHHS.Immunization@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.Immunization@nebraska.gov) or visit their website at <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/immunization>.

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