



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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Beat the Back-to-School Rush, Get Your Children and Adolescents Vaccinated Now!



Kingsford, Michigan – July 19, 2011.
It's the middle of summer and the farthest thing from your mind may be getting your children ready for school. However, summer is an ideal time to cross immunizations off your back-to-school checklist. Why not beat the rush? As the first day of

school gets closer, doctors' offices tend to be swamped with children and adolescents needing sports physicals and back-to-school vaccines.

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department reminds parents that vaccines aren't just for babies. Pre-teens and adolescents need immunizations, too. All older children and adolescents need meningococcal and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines. Children who haven't had chickenpox disease need two doses of varicella vaccine to be fully protected. The HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine is recommended for girls at 11-12 years of age and also may be given to boys. In addition, everyone (including healthy children and teens) should receive seasonal flu vaccine every year. These, along with the previously recommended routine childhood vaccines, will help protect your child from serious diseases.

-More-

If your child does not have health insurance, or does not have insurance that covers the recommended vaccines, ask your health care provider or the Health Department about the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. This program provides free vaccines to eligible children and adolescents birth through 18 years of age. Children and adolescents are eligible if they: 1) are on Michigan Medicaid; 2) are eligible for Michigan Medicaid; 3) do not have health insurance; 4) are under-insured (insurance does not cover immunizations); or 5) are American Indian or Alaskan Native. There is a \$15 administration fee for each immunization and it is billable to Medicaid.

As the new school year approaches, physician offices and your local Health Department are busy working to ensure that children and adolescents attending schools and child care programs have received all of their vaccines. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department encourages parents to make sure their children are up-to-date on their immunizations. Beat the August rush and bring them in for needed vaccines now.

Why Schedule Now!

- **Before school and extracurricular activities begin**
- **Before they leave home for college**
- **Beat the back to school rush for appointments in the fall**
- **While they are eligible for free vaccines**
(Eligible if they have no insurance coverage for vaccinations)

For an appointment or more information call your healthcare provider or the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department at (906) 774-1868 or (906) 265-9913.

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