

# GRANT COUNTY

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# HEALTH DISTRICT

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Media Release – 8/07/07 - Contact Peggy Grigg, 509-754-6060, ext 26

## Get Ready for "Back to School" – Older Children Need Vaccines, Too

The Grant County Health District wants to remind parents to make sure their children are adequately vaccinated for school attendance.

The schedule of recommended vaccines provides protection from several preventable and serious diseases, some of which have no cure or treatment. Vaccines protect the child who gets vaccinated, as well as their close contacts. If a child is vaccinated according to the recommended schedule (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/downloads/child/2007/child-schedule-color-print.pdf>), he or she will certainly meet the school immunization requirements. In the event of disease in the school setting, students who are not vaccinated may get the disease, or may be excluded from participation in school and school events.

School shots are not just for young children. There are new school requirements for adolescents. One of those is the addition of 1 dose of Tdap vaccine for 11 year old students entering the sixth grade. Before Tdap vaccine was available, vaccines to prevent pertussis, or whooping cough, could only be given to children under the age of 7.

Parents should:

- Call your healthcare provider and schedule a check up;
- Ask about current immunization recommendations;
- Request a copy of the immunization records, or request that *your* copy be updated;
- Provide an updated CIS (Certificate of Immunization Status) form to your child's school. Healthcare providers that use the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry can easily print a child's immunizations on the CIS form. The school will also have this form available for parents to fill out.
- If your child has had chicken pox (varicella) this should be put on the CIS form, with the date of the disease.

Current vaccine requirements for adolescents include:

- Hepatitis B, 3 doses now required through grade 10;
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) – 2 doses required for all grades.
- Polio;

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis – 1 dose Tdap is now required for 11 year old students entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, if it has been at least 5 years since their last Diphtheria/Tetanus containing vaccine.
- Varicella (Chickenpox) – 1 dose required for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (also for kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade); students who have had the disease do not need to be immunized;

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also recommends the following vaccines for adolescents:

- HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) - for all girls 11-12 years old and up;
- Meningococcal – for 11-12 year olds, high school entry, and college freshmen living in dormitories;
- Hepatitis A;
- Varicella (Chickenpox) – 2<sup>nd</sup> dose is recommended although not a school requirement yet. Receiving the second dose significantly improves protection against getting chickenpox.

The Grant County Health District's Ephrata office (at the Courthouse) provides children's immunizations on Mondays from 1 to 4 pm. If your health coverage plan has assigned a healthcare provider, please contact your provider regarding your child's immunizations.

During August, the Grant County Health District will be participating in local partnership activities to vaccinate children and adolescents with Columbia Basin Hospital and the Rotary in Ephrata, and with Quincy Valley Clinic and the Quincy School District in Quincy.