

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 8/11/2025

To: Grant Co. Media

FOR INFORMATION CONTACTElayne Rodriguez
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erodriguez@granthealth.org**A Smart Start to the New School Year: Stay Up to Date with
Childhood Vaccines*****August is National Immunization Awareness Month!***

GRANT COUNTY — As families across Grant County prepare for the new school year, it's important to make sure children are protected against preventable diseases. Staying up to date on vaccines helps keep kids healthy, in school, and ready to learn.

Children in private and public schools, childcare facilities, or other early learning programs are required to have certain vaccinations before they can attend. These requirements are put into place to protect children, families, and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. Parents who choose to opt out of certain vaccinations for their children must have a Washington State-approved exemption form on file.

Current Situation: Measles and Whooping Cough

Measles cases are increasing nationwide, and whooping cough (pertussis) cases in Washington state have been going down in recent weeks. However, both infections are highly contagious and can lead to serious complications. Vaccines are available to help prevent them. **Protect your family and others by vaccinating your child before the school year begins.**

Additionally, COVID-19 vaccines are available for children and recommended by healthcare providers to reduce the risk of severe illness.

"Vaccines help protect your child and those around them from contagious diseases such as measles and pertussis," says Amber McCoy, Investigations and Response Manager. "By keeping vaccinations up to date, families can prevent disruptions in school and daily life caused by preventable illnesses."

Current Situation: Grant County Vaccine Compliance Resolution

In July 2024, Grant County Health District staff and the Health Officer worked with the Grant County Board of Health to pass a resolution supporting stronger vaccine compliance in schools. This resolution urges local schools to enforce vaccine requirements mandated by state law.

[Click here to view the resolution.](#)

Check Your Family's Immunization Status:

August is [National Immunization Awareness Month](#)! This month highlights the importance of vaccination for people of all ages, and it is a reminder to check your family's immunization status and catch up on any missed vaccines.

- Use [CDC's immunization schedule](#) to see which vaccines your child needs for their age group.
- Access your family's immunization records with [MyIR Mobile](#), a free and secure tool to confirm they are up to date.
- If your child is missing any required or recommended vaccines, contact their healthcare provider to schedule an appointment.

[Click here for more ways to access immunization records.](#)

Get Up to Date:

Don't wait until the first day of school! Make sure your child is up to date on their vaccines today.

All providers in Grant County participate in Washington's Childhood Vaccine Program offer free vaccines for those 18 years and under, regardless of insurance status.

[Click here to find a list of participating providers in your area.](#)

If you are charged with an office visit or administrative fee that you are unable to pay, ask your provider to waive the cost.

For more information about immunizations or help finding vaccine services in Grant County, contact the Grant County Health District at (509) 766-7960 or visit www.granthealth.org.

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