

July 25, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Back-To-School season is the time for immunizations**

As the calendar flips to August next week, now is the time for parents and guardians of school-age children to think about required and recommended vaccinations before the 2013-14 school year begins.

Parents should begin working those appointments into their family's schedule as soon as possible, as the last few days before school starts often see crowded waiting rooms at the health department, clinics and doctor's offices.

"No kid wants to spend the last day of their summer vacation sitting in a waiting room," said Ruth Brown, BSN, RN, public health nurse. "And busy parents are usually pressed for time before school starts, too. The phrase, 'Don't wait, vaccinate' is never more apt than right now. Whether it's through the health department or your doctor or any of the clinics offered by area school districts, right now is the time to be thinking about immunizations."

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department provides Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program vaccines at no cost for children age 18 and under who meet one of the following criteria:

- Uninsured or Medicaid eligible
- American Indian or Alaskan native
- Underinsured (have insurance that does not cover vaccines) – This does not include those who have a high deductible or co-pay

Children who are VFC eligible (except those with Medicaid) but reside outside Greene County will be charged an administration fee of \$17 per visit.

Children who have insurance that covers vaccinations may receive routine immunizations from their health care providers. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department can provide purchased vaccines for children who have insurance coverage at a fee that includes the current cost of the vaccine, plus administration. Call (417) 874-1220 for current prices.

Additional Resources:

- [List of required immunizations](#) for public school students in Missouri
- [Schedule of free immunization clinics](#) to be held by Springfield Public Schools between Aug. 1 and 12 at various high schools and middle schools.

For more information, contact: Mike Brothers, public information administrator, (417) 874-1205.