



Knox County Health Department

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KCHD to hold vaccination event for families with rising seventh grade students

Knoxville, Tenn. — The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) will hold a vaccination clinic for rising seventh grade students on **Saturday, June 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its Broadway vaccination clinic**, 4216 N. Broadway. No appointments required. Parents will have the opportunity to choose from several vaccinations at the clinic.

Although immunizations are required for students entering preschool, kindergarten and seventh grade, officials say many rising seventh grade students fall behind.

“This happens for several reasons, not the least of which is that kids tend to receive fewer annual checkups as they grow older,” said KCHD Nursing Director Dena Mashburn. “We wanted to offer this special clinic to help students get caught up on required and recommended vaccines and to offer the COVID-19 vaccine.”

Several vaccines recommended for this age group will be available at the clinic, including tetanus - diphtheria - acellular pertussis (Tdap), meningococcal and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine will also be available for students 12 years of age and older. As always, parents can discuss the options with KCHD team members and choose which vaccines their child receives at the clinic.

If families can't attend the June 12 clinic, immunizations are available at area pediatrician offices and many local pharmacies. KCHD also provides vaccines at its main location, 140 Dameron Ave., and West Clinic, 1028 Old Cedar Bluff, by appointment. To make an appointment, call 865-215-5070.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and numerous other national medical organizations say immunizations are vital in protecting children from potentially serious diseases. The CDC estimates vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2018 will prevent more than 26 million hospitalizations, 936,000 deaths and save nearly \$1.9 trillion in total societal costs. More information and recommendations for parents can be found at [Healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org).

More information about childhood immunizations, including contact information for KCHD and a list of the recommended vaccinations by grade level, is available at [knoxcounty.org/health](https://www.knoxcounty.org/health).

About Knox County Health Department

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. As a chief health strategist for the community and with more than 240 team members, KCHD's broad scope of work includes convening partners to improve community health, identifying community health threats, investigating disease outbreaks, conducting extensive outreach and education, preparing for public health emergencies, providing and connecting the public with medical care, enforcing food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

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