140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917

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KCHD Urges Parents to Ensure Kids' Vaccinations Are Up to Date

Knoxville, Tenn.— With summer break coming to an end, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is reminding parents that now is the time to make sure their child's vaccinations are up to date. All students entering preschool, kindergarten or seventh grade and those entering a Tennessee school for the first time should receive state-required immunizations. These include vaccines that protect against: measles, Hepatitis B, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, and others.

Appointments are available at both KCHD locations. As a reminder, KCHD's Teague clinic is closed this year. Please contact the clinic at which you would like to make an appointment:

Main Location: 140 Dameron Ave.; 865-215-5070
West Clinic: 1028 Old Cedar Bluff Rd.; 865-215-5950

A parent/guardian's photo ID, insurance card, and child's vaccination records are required for the appointment. Please come at your scheduled appointment time and reschedule if sick.

"We want to make this process as convenient and easy for parents as possible, who we know are especially busy this time of year," said KCHD Director of Nursing Dena Mashburn. "We encourage parents to make an appointment with their child's physician or our staff as soon as possible if they haven't already."

If you believe your child is up to date on vaccines and only needs the immunization certificate, contact your primary care provider to see if they have it available. If they don't and/or the child has recently moved to Tennessee and needs their records transferred, call KCHD's Immunization Program at 865-215-5150. Please keep in mind there is a 2-5-day turnaround time for certificates and state vaccination record transfers. If you want to pick up a copy of your certificate, call to schedule a pick-up time.

More information, including a list of the state-required vaccinations by grade level, is available on KCHD's <u>website</u>.

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 260 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.

