



MEDIA RELEASE

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katharine Killen
865-215-5534 office
865-755-1121 cell

June 18, 2018

KCHD encourages parents to ensure kids' vaccinations are up to date

Knoxville, Tenn. — As summer break approaches its halfway point, 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. Before the first day of school, parents must provide their child's school with a state immunization certificate, which documents receipt of the vaccinations.

"We want children to have a safe and enjoyable summer. One way to prevent illness is to make sure your child is up to date on his or her vaccinations," said Dr. Kelly Cooper, KCHD director of clinical services. "Parents can get their child vaccinated at their physician's office or here at the health department. We encourage parents to schedule an appointment today. As August gets closer, it may be harder to get an appointment."

Those who wish to have their child vaccinated at the health department, should call 865-215-5070 to schedule an appointment. At the appointment, parents should have their photo ID, insurance card if applicable, and their child's vaccination record if they have it. The health department is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointments are available at all three locations: Downtown Knoxville at 140 Dameron Ave.; North Knox County at 405 Dante School Road; and West Knox County at 1028 Old Cedar Bluff Road.

Both immunizations and immunization certificates are available at pediatrician offices or any KCHD location. Parents may contact their child's pediatrician or the KCHD Immunization Program, 865-215-5150, to determine if their child has received the required vaccinations. More information, including a list of the state-required vaccinations by grade level, is available on KCHD's website at knoxcounty.org/health.

Tennessee's vaccine requirements follow recommendations from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Childhood immunizations are vital in protecting children from potentially serious diseases. The CDC estimates vaccinations will prevent more than 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths among children born in the last 20 years. In addition, vaccines are widely considered one of the most well-researched and safe medical interventions available. In fact, data show that the current U.S. vaccine supply is the safest in history.

About Knox County Health Department

As 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. KCHD investigates disease outbreaks, identifies community health threats, conducts extensive outreach and education, prepares for public health emergencies, provides and connects the public with medical care, enforces food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

###

