

## Are Your Shots Up to Date?

It is important that everyone be vaccinated to protect themselves from various illnesses. The vaccines we receive act like real germs and cause our body to form antibodies that will fight our body germs. Therefore, the vaccine offers protection without getting the disease. Today our children are healthier because we as adults were vaccinated from different illnesses during our lifetime. To continue this success, we must be vigilant in our effort to complete our children's immunization series.

Some interesting disease facts, according to the Indiana State Dept. of Health, it is 100 times easier to be infected with Hepatitis B than HIV. Also, adolescents are 2 to 3 times more likely to develop severe complications or even die from chickenpox. So if you haven't had the chickenpox, consider the shot. Also college-aged students are 70% likely to attract meningococcal meningitis which is vaccine preventable. Did you know that there are about 40 to 60 cases of tetanus in the United States that result in at least 10 deaths? Again shot preventable. Vaccines that are given are Hepatitis B, Pneumococcus, HIB, Measles, Mumps, Rubella Chickenpox, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, and Flu. All the vaccines are very safe. Discuss any concerns you have with your health provider.

The Dearborn County Health Department will vaccinate children as early as 8 weeks old, up to 18 years of age for any required childhood vaccinations. Also persons needing a TB tine test, or tetanus shot can acquire these through the health department by appointment.

The infant schedule is as follows:

2 months	HBV, HIB, DTaP, IPV, Prevnar
4 months	HBV, HIB, DTaP, IPV, Prevnar
6 months	HBV, HIB, DTaP, IPV, Prevnar
12 months	Prevnar, MMR, Varicella
15 months	HIB, DTaP
4-6 yr old	DTaP, IPV, MMR

Every 10 years a tetanus booster is recommended

The Indiana State Dept. of Health requires that children age 5 starting kindergarten have:

5	DPT
4	OPV
2	MMR
1	Varicella (chicken pox)
3	Hepatitis B

Children enrolling in the FIRST grade should have:

4	DPT
3	OPV
2	MMR
1	Varicella
3	Hepatitis B

Ninth grade and Twelfth grade need:

3	Hepatitis B
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Also an up coming change in the state requirements is that 12<sup>th</sup> graders will have to have a Meningococcal immunization. At the present time, it is not mandated. You may want to check with your Dr. if you have concerns.

Adult immunizations consist basically of receiving flu shots yearly, a tetanus shot every 10 years and a pneumococcal vaccine once after age 65 or twice, if the first was given before 65 years of age.

The dates for childhood immunizations to be given at The Dearborn County Health Department this summer are July 13, 14, 15 and 22: August is the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and September's schedule is 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. The clinic is open from 9-11 AM and is located in the basement of the administration building behind the courthouse. There is a \$3 donation requested per child. Remember to bring a copy of your child's immunization record. Also, a parent or guardian (with appropriate documentation) must be present. If a parent or guardian cannot be present, the parent or guardian must sign the forms prior and send a note giving permission for someone else to bring their child. You may pick up the forms at our office before the clinic dates so the forms can be filled out ahead of time. For further information, call 537-8826. After September, our regular schedule is every second Wednesday and Thursday and third Friday of the month.

Please see to it your child's shots are up to date **BEFORE** school starts! This is something you can control and see to it that it gets done on time. Don't wait till the last minute or even worse – your child be denied

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attendance at school because they don't have the required shots. That will only hurt your child.

As always, any questions, or comments, eMail me at  
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