

Time to Check Your Child's Immunizations

It is hard to believe summer time is running out and it is that time of year to get ready for school. It might be necessary to check and see if all of your child's immunizations are up to date so to meet school requirements. The immunizations required help to protect your child from various diseases. Any childhood immunizations lacking can be obtained free of charge at The Dearborn County Health Department. We only ask for a \$3 donation per child.

Let's review some interesting facts about diseases, 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. Also did you know that there are about 40 to 60 cases of tetanus in the United States that result in at least 10 deaths? This can be prevented by an immunization every 10 years. Vaccines that are given by the Health Department are:

- Hepatitis B
- Pneumococcus
- HIB
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella
- Chickenpox
- Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus
- Polio
- Rotovirus
- Flu,
- Hep A
- Tdap

- Menactra
- HPV

All the vaccines are very safe. You may discuss any concerns you have with your health care provider. The Dearborn County Health Department will vaccinate children as early as 8 weeks old, through 18 years of age for any required childhood vaccinations. Also adults needing a TB tine test, tetanus shot or Hep A or B series, flu and Pneumococcal can acquire these through the Health Department by appointment.

The infant schedule is as follows:

2 months	HBV, HIB, DTaP, IPV, Prevnar, Rotovirus
4 months	HBV, HIB, DTaP, IPV, Prevnar, Rotovirus
6 months	HBV, HIB, DTaP, IPV, Prevnar, Rotovirus
12 months	Prevnar, MMR, Varicella, Hep A
15 months	HIB, DTaP
18 months	Hep A
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

Some colleges are requiring 12th graders to have a Meningococcal immunization (Menactra). This protects one from inflammation and infection of the membranes and cerebrospinal fluid around the brain and spinal cord. Approximately 700 Americans die of meningitis each year. You may want to check with your Dr. if you have concerns. It should also be noted that a student up through twelfth grade is **required** to have at least 1 varicella immunization or have had record of the disease. Although, it is strongly recommended by the CDC that students 13 years and older have 2 varicella immunizations for extra protection.

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. A new Tdap is now available for people who need their tetanus updated and have not previously had a Tdap. A Tdap is Tetanus along with Diphtheria and adult Pertussis. It needs only to be given once, and then followed up with Tetanus every 10 years.

The dates for childhood immunizations to be given at The Dearborn County Health Department this summer are:

- August – 8th, 13th, 14th, 15th
- September - 10th, 11th, 12th.
- Hours – 9-11 AM
- Where – 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, Thursday and Friday of the month.

Remember to see that your child's immunizations are up to date before school starts. You will have less of a hassle getting into the swing of things when starting school. By keeping immunizations up to date, you are protecting your child in a positive way. Just remember immunizations have been proven to be quite safe and are continually monitored by the CDC and the FDA.

As always, any questions, or comments, eMail me at gheffelmire@dearborncounty.in.gov

