



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
301 West End Avenue
Dickson, TN 37055

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE IMMUNIZATIONS FOR 7TH GRADERS

The Dickson County Health Department will be offering special clinics to provide free immunizations to seventh graders on Monday, August 16th and Wednesday, September 22nd from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. All children entering the seventh grade this fall must submit proof of a booster dose of the tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine; and confirm either chickenpox immunity through the disease or receipt of two doses of the varicella vaccine.

For the first time in a decade, Tennessee has adopted new childhood immunization requirements to better protect children from serious diseases, especially those that can spread easily in a school setting. "Vaccinations have all but eliminated the threat of diseases like mumps and measles. Unfortunately, we still see Tennessee children suffer and die unnecessarily when they are not properly immunized," said Health Commissioner Susan R. Cooper, MSN, RN. "These new requirements assure that children have the best protection from serious illnesses that are easily passed from person to person in schools".

"The required vaccines are already recommended for all children by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics, so most young children have already received them," said Kelly Moore, MD, medical director of the state immunization program. "Parents should talk with their child's health care provider to be sure they have had everything they need.

Because all new seventh graders will need a new Immunization Certificate, public schools are allowing a one-time grace period of October 1 to submit the new form, according to the State Department of Education. If a child has already received the required vaccines for seventh grade, a new Immunization Certificate must be provided to the child's school.

"With all the activity that surrounds the starting of a new school year, the Dickson County Health Department would like to help parents get the required immunizations and certificate. We will be open from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on August 16th and September 22nd to provide the Tdap and varicella vaccine free of charge for those children entering seventh grade", said Joey Smith, Director of the Dickson County Health Department. It is also recommended that parents bring a current shot record for their child to the Health Department.

Please call the Dickson County Health Department at 615-446-2839 to make an appointment.