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Send Kids Back to School with Their Vaccines Up-to-Date

Ready or not, back-to-school season is here! It is time for parents to dust off those backpacks, dig out the No. 2 pencils, and shop for other needed school supplies. It's also the perfect time to make sure kids are up to date on their vaccines! To help ensure children are protected with all the vaccines they need, the Grand Traverse County Health Department recommends parents check with their family Primary Care Providers or call our Immunization desk to see what vaccines we recommend for your children or adolescents. (231.995.6131).

"Ensuring children get all of the vaccines recommended by the CDC's immunization schedule is one of the most important things parents can do to protect their children's health, the health of their classmates, and that of the community at large," said Wendy Trute, Health Officer of Grand Traverse County. Today's childhood vaccines protect against very serious and potentially life threatening diseases; including measles, mumps, whooping cough, meningitis, and chickenpox. When kids are not vaccinated, not only are they at risk, but there is also an increased risk to others in the community – this includes babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems due to other health conditions.

Immunizations for ALL ages are available at our main Health Department location on LaFranier (231.995.6131). For adolescents, ages 10-21, all recommended vaccinations are also offered at the Health Department's adolescent clinics: Youth Health & Wellness Center (231.922.6416) or K-Town Youth Care in Kingsley (231.263.5895). Call any our locations today to schedule an appointment.

In addition, along with our partners on the Northern Michigan Vaccine Preventable Disease Task Force, the Grand Traverse County Health Department is supporting a one day Back-to-School Immunization Event being offered on Saturday, August 27th from 9am-5m at Munson's Immunization Clinic. Call 231.935.8125 for clinic details.

Parents and caregivers are also reminded that the State of Michigan's immunization waiver requirements have recently changed. While medical waivers may still be issued by physicians, nonmedical waivers require an educational/informational meeting with a public health nurse. Please make an appointment with one of our nurses as soon as possible in order to meet school deadlines (231.995-6131).

For more information about immunizations, please see our website: <http://gtchd.org/530/Immunizations>

Parents can find more about immunizations schedules, as well as vaccine safety at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>

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