



August 8, 2013

Contact: Tom Schlueter (630) 444-3098

(630) 417-9729 cell

Send Your Kids Back to School with their Vaccines Up to Date
National Immunization Awareness Month
is a reminder that we all need vaccines throughout our lives.

Back-to-school season is here. Time for parents to gather supplies and back packs. It's also the perfect time to make sure your kids are up to date on their vaccines.

To celebrate the importance of immunizations throughout life – and make sure children are protected with all the vaccines they need – the Kane County Health Department will be promoting the importance of immunizations throughout August as part of National Immunization Awareness Month.

As a reminder, beginning fall of 2013 all Illinois students entering, transferring, or advancing into 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades will be required to show proof of receipt of one dose of Tdap vaccine (containing tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis). Most students may have already received the vaccine and simply need to provide the school with verifying documentation from the family health care provider.

Today's childhood vaccines protect against serious and potentially life threatening diseases, including polio, measles, whooping cough and chickenpox. When children are not vaccinated, they are at increased risk and can spread diseases to others in their classrooms and community – including babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated, and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer and other health conditions.

(MORE)

School age children need vaccines. For example, children who are 4 to 6 years old are due for boosters of four vaccines: DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis), chickenpox, MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and polio. Older children, like pre-teens and teens, need Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), MCV (meningococcal conjugate virus) and HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccines. In addition, yearly flu vaccines are recommended for all children 6 months and older. Parents can find out more about the recommended immunization schedule at the Health Department's Website, www.kanehealth.com/immunizations.htm, by following us on Twitter (@KaneCoHealth) or [Facebook](#), or from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html,

#