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## Licking County Health Department

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Date: March 22, 2011

To: All Local Media

From: Nancy Hanger R.N., Director of Nursing

Subject: High School Juniors and Seniors need Vaccines Before College

At this time of year, parents of high school juniors and seniors are busy completing college financial aid forms and assisting their son or daughter in finding the right college to meet their needs. No matter which college you select, you will need to complete a health form as part of the admission. Although many colleges vary on specific vaccine requirements, there are a few recommended standards that most suggest, if not require.

These vaccines may be obtained through your physician's office, for those covered by insurance, or at the Licking County Health Department for those with little or no insurance at a much reduced cost. Vaccines recommended include: Meningococcal , Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap), Hepatitis A, Gardasil for both males and females (HPV vaccine), and a second dose of chickenpox (Varicella vaccine). By getting these vaccines before your teen turns 19, the Licking County Health Department can utilize vaccine subsidized by the Ohio Department of Health. Once your child turns 19, state subsidized vaccine is no longer available so privately purchased vaccine must be used. The cost to the consumer increases significantly in some cases. A vaccine for a child under 19 may cost \$25 or less, but if the student waits until they turn 19, the price may be well over \$100.

Because some of these vaccines are given in a two or three dose series, it is even more important to see your doctor or visit the local health department to start the series when your child is 17 or younger if possible.

Plan ahead and avoid excess cost for your child's vaccines. All vaccines can be completed in as little as six months. Appointment and walk-in clinics are available at the Licking County Health Department. Call 740-349-6535 or check the Web site at [www.lickingcohealth.org](http://www.lickingcohealth.org) for clinic times and location. Medicaid cards are accepted. No one is denied if unable to pay under the children's program.

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