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Health Commissioner



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## Licking County Health Department

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Date: May 16, 2011

To: All Local Media

From: R. Joseph Ebel RS, MS, MBA

Subject: Kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Vaccine Requirements

Each spring, schools remind parents about vaccine requirements for Kindergarten and now a new requirement as of 2010 for 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry, a Tetanus, Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis (Whooping cough) vaccine. According to Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, "Parents often put wait to get their children immunized until right before school starts in the fall is often put off until late in the summer. Unfortunately, the last minute rush results in busy clinics, and longer wait times."

The Licking County Health Department would like to encourage parents of all children needing vaccines to come to the health department or see their child's physician **now**. Since most health department clinics, except for Tuesday evening, are walk-in, you can avoid the long wait of a busy clinic before school starts. If you get vaccines before school is out in June, the school nurse will be even more thrilled to see proof of your child's vaccine status so she doesn't have to send you a note in the late summer. If your child does not comply with these required vaccines, he may be excluded from school until the requirement is met.

Kindergarten students are required a 5<sup>th</sup> dose of DTaP, a 4<sup>th</sup> dose of Polio, a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Measles-Mumps & Rubella, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Varicella vaccine to complete their primary series. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are required the Tdap, but are also eligible to receive Hepatitis A, HPV, Meningitis, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Varicella vaccine now recommended. For children about to graduate high school and enter college, several vaccines are recommended for them as well.

Call the Licking County Health Department (740-349-6535) or go to [www.lickingcohealth.org](http://www.lickingcohealth.org) on the Internet for information regarding clinic availability.