



# MEDIA RELEASE

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## KCHD encourages parents to kick off summer with a healthy start

*Ensure child's vaccinations are up to date*

*Knoxville, Tenn.* — As summer break begins for students, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is reminding parents that now is the time to make sure their child's vaccinations are up to date. All students entering preschool, kindergarten or seventh grade and those entering a Tennessee school for the first time should receive state-required immunizations. Before the first day of school, parents must also provide their child's school with [a state immunization certificate](#), which documents receipt of the vaccinations.

"We want children to have a safe and enjoyable summer. One way to prevent illness is to make sure your child is up to date on his or her vaccinations," said Dr. Kelly Cooper, KCHD director of clinical services. "Parents can get their child vaccinated at their physician's office or here at the health department. We encourage parents to schedule an appointment today. Come August, it might be harder to get an appointment."

Those who wish to have their child vaccinated at the health department, should call 865-215-5070 to schedule an appointment. Prior to the appointment, parents may complete the registration paperwork online via an [online registration form](#), which should be a time-saver for them. At the appointment, parents should have their photo ID, insurance card if applicable, and their child's vaccination record if they have it. The health department is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointments are available at all three locations: Downtown Knoxville - 140 Dameron Ave.; North Knox County - 405 Dante School Road; and West Knox County - 1028 Old Cedar Bluff Road.

Both immunizations and immunization certificates are available at pediatrician offices or at any KCHD location. Parents may contact their child's pediatrician or the KCHD Immunization Program, 865-215-5150, to determine if their child has received the required vaccinations. More information, including a list of the state-required vaccinations by grade level, is on KCHD's website at [knoxcounty.org/health](#).

Tennessee's vaccine requirements follow recommendations from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Childhood immunizations are vital in protecting children from potentially serious diseases. The CDC estimates vaccinations will prevent more than 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths among children born in the last 20 years. In addition, vaccines are widely considered one of the most well-researched and safe medical interventions available. In fact, data show that the current U.S. vaccine supply is the safest in history.

### **About Knox County Health Department:**

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is a governmental agency dedicated to making every person a healthy person. As the first health department in Tennessee to achieve national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, KCHD's mission is to encourage, promote and assure the development of an active, healthy community through innovative public health practices. The organization conducts disease surveillance, prevention and control; emergency preparedness; nutrition and physical activity promotion; tobacco use prevention; health equity promotion; immunizations; and much more. For more information, visit [www.knoxcounty.org/health](#).

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