



Greene County Public Health

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Press Release

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August is National Immunization Awareness Month

Vaccines Help Kids Stay Healthy and Ready for School

XENIA, OH – August is National Immunization Awareness Month, and Greene County Public Health is reminding families how important vaccines are—especially for kids heading back to school.

Vaccines help protect children from serious diseases like measles, mumps, whooping cough, and more. They also help keep schools and communities healthy by stopping the spread of germs.

“Vaccines help people of all ages live longer, healthier lives,” says Jennifer Barga, Community Health Services Director at Greene County Public Health. Every year, vaccines save millions of lives around the world.

Back-to-School Vaccines for Ohio Students

Before starting school, children in Ohio are required to have certain vaccines. These may include:

- **DTaP** (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis)
- **Polio**
- **MMR** (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- **Hepatitis B**
- **Varicella** (Chickenpox)
- **Tdap** and **Meningococcal** (for 7th and 12th graders)

Parents should check with their child’s doctor or school nurse to make sure their child is up to date. Children who don’t have the required shots may not be allowed to attend school.

Why Vaccinate Now?

As the school year starts and fall approaches, viruses like the flu, COVID-19, and RSV begin to spread more. Vaccinating now gives the body time to build strong protection. This helps kids stay in class, play sports, and stay healthy during the school year.

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Are Vaccines Safe?

Yes. Vaccines are tested very carefully before they are given to people. The FDA checks to make sure they are safe and that they work. Millions of people in the U.S. safely get vaccines every year.

Get the Facts from Trusted Sources

There is a lot of information online, but not all of it is true. Greene County Public Health encourages families to talk with their family doctor or nurse, and to visit trusted sources like the FDA, CDC, or

www.greenecophoh.gov

“It’s easy to fall behind on routine vaccines, especially during busy summers,” says Laurie Fox, Public Information Officer for Greene County Public Health. “August is the perfect time to catch up and get kids ready for a healthy school year.”

For more information on Greene County Public Health, visit www.greenecophoh.gov or call 937-374-5600.

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