



NEWS RELEASE

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Parents Are Encouraged To Avoid the Back-to-School Rush by Getting Their Children Vaccinated Early

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is encouraging parents to get their children vaccinated now to avoid the back-to-school rush later this summer, according to Abbi Pierce, Immunization Surveillance coordinator for the Department of Health.

Children entering school are required to have received five doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis), four doses of IPV (polio), two doses of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), and two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. Adolescents entering middle school are required to receive immunizations against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal disease. Other vaccines may be recommended by a child's health-care provider.

“We encourage parents to plan ahead,” Pierce said. “Schoolchildren should get vaccinated as soon as possible to ensure they are protected on the first day of school.”

Requiring schoolchildren to receive certain vaccines helps to minimize the spread of preventable illnesses in schools and provides North Dakota's children with a healthier environment in which to learn. North Dakota's school requirements are based on immunization recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

To get your children vaccinated, call your local public health unit or health-care provider. For more information about school immunization requirements, contact Abbi Pierce, North Dakota Department of Health, at 800.472.2180 or visit www.ndhealth.gov/immunize.

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