

Speaking of Public Health
Topic – School Immunizations
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If your child is going into Kindergarten or 7th grade, they probably need immunizations prior to the start of this school year. Now is the time to schedule your child for their needed school shots. The Hocking County Health Department's Immunization clinics are going through some major changes that you need to be aware of. The majority of these changes are due to a change in the Ohio Department of Health's vaccine program. In the past, we have received vaccine for free from the Ohio Department of Health. Unfortunately, this is changing and we now need to privately purchase vaccine for our immunization program. Due to these high costs and requirements from The Ohio Department of Health, the bullets below point out a few main changes for you to take note of:

- The Health Department has gone to appointments for immunizations.
- We will need to see your child's immunization card and insurance card at each visit.
- Your insurance may be billed for your child's immunizations.
- We will be offering appointments at other times than just our original Monday, Friday clinics.

You do have options for immunizations for your child. We will continue to provide vaccine at the health department. Your child can also receive immunizations through your private physician if they offer vaccine.

I would strongly recommend that you do not wait until August to have your child vaccinated. Clinics in August are very busy due to the start of school. Please call the health department at 385-3030 for an appointment today.