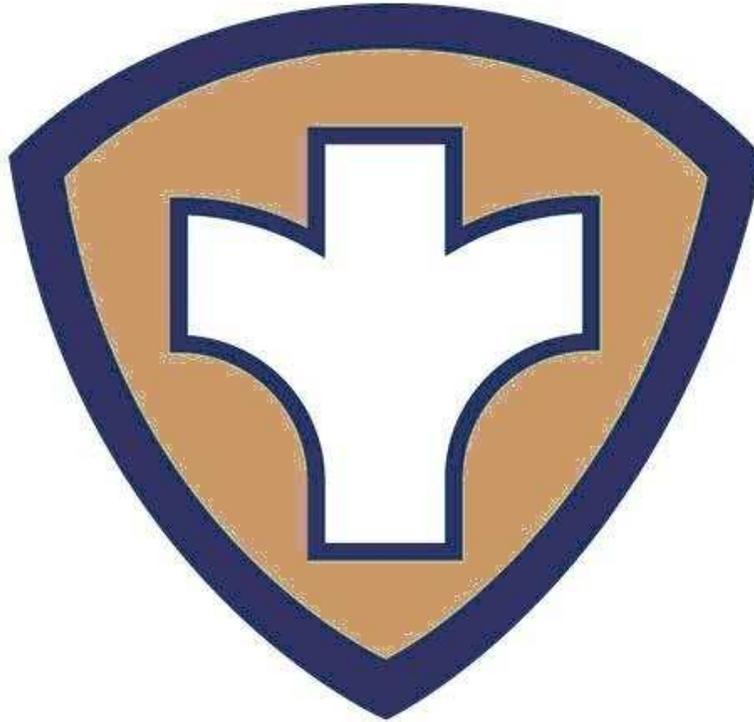


Hocking County Health Department  
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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



# Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Making sure that children of all ages receive their vaccinations on time is one of the most important things you can do as a parent to ensure your children's long-term health—as well as the health of friends, classmates, and others in your community. To keep children in schools healthy, the state of Ohio requires children going to school to be vaccinated against certain diseases, such as whooping cough and measles. In Ohio, certain vaccines are required at Kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry. If you're unsure of your

school requirements, now is the time to check with your child's doctor, your child's school, or the health department. That way, you can get your child any vaccines he needs before the back-to-school rush.

It's true that some vaccine-preventable diseases have become very rare thanks to vaccines. However, outbreaks still happen. Ohio is currently experiencing an outbreak of the measles. Vaccination is the most effective way to minimize the spread of measles. When individuals are fully vaccinated, the mumps-measles-rubella (MMR) vaccine is 97 percent effective in preventing measles. Ohio's continuing measles outbreak is part of the largest outbreak in the U.S. since 1994.

Making sure your children stay up to date with vaccinations is the best way to protect your communities and schools from other outbreaks that can cause unnecessary illnesses and deaths.

The health department strongly recommends that you do not wait until August to have your child vaccinated. Clinics in August are very busy due to the start of school. In addition, with the measles outbreak spreading to 8 counties, we encourage parents to check vaccine records to ensure their school age child has 2 MMR vaccines. Please call the health department at 385-3030 if you have any questions and to schedule an appointment.

