

Date: August 16, 2010

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## Free immunization clinics for children

For the third year, Kittitas County Public Health Department has been invited to hold free immunization clinics at three local schools during sixth grade orientation events. Any school-aged child under the age of 19 can attend any clinic, regardless of school enrollment or grade. A parent or guardian must be present.

Detailed information about the clinics:

- **Morgan Middle School, Ellensburg, on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 12 – 1:30 p.m.**
- **Kittitas Secondary School, Kittitas, on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 6 – 7 p.m.**
- **Walter Strom Middle School, Cle Elum, on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 – 5 p.m.**

Incoming sixth grade students will need a booster dose of Tdap vaccine, which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. Other immunization requirements for school entry vary by grade level and can be found on the Washington State Department of Health website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/schools/vaccine.htm>.

Vaccines that are required for all grades include polio and hepatitis B vaccines, and MMR to protect against measles, mumps, and rubella. Varicella vaccine, which protects against chickenpox, is required for children in grades 6 and lower. Vaccines that are recommended but not required for school will also be available for free at the clinics. These include meningococcal, hepatitis A, and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines. This year, HPV vaccine is also available for boys.

Ensuring that children are up-to-date with their immunizations is the most effective way to protect against vaccine-preventable illnesses; some of the illnesses that children may gain protection from are very serious and have no cure or treatment. For more information, call Kittitas County Public Health Department at 509-962-7515.

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