



Media Contact:
David Heaton
Public Information Officer
(435) 986-2594 (office)
(435) 680-1316 (cell)
dheaton@swuhealth.org

News Release

July 29, 2024

Time for Back-to-School Immunizations

SOUTHWEST UTAH – The Southwest Utah Public Health Department (SWUPHD) is reminding parents that children going into kindergarten and 7th grade are required to have certain immunizations in place before starting school next month.

Even though most children have received all recommended vaccines by age two, many under-immunized children remain, leaving the potential for disease outbreaks.

“Schools can be an ideal breeding ground for highly contagious pathogens, so we pay attention to individual student immunity”, says Mindy Bundy, RN, SWUPHD Clinical Director. “We are at a higher risk for an outbreak of chickenpox, pertussis, or measles than we should be.”

In Utah, proof of immunization is required for students attending grades K-12 in public, charter, private, and church schools, as well as children going to licensed child care providers, Head Start programs, and nurseries or preschools located within a school.

The SWUPHD provides vaccinations in each of our five counties by appointment:

Beaver
(435) 438-2482
Garfield
(435) 676-8800
Iron
(435) 586-2437
Kane
(435) 644-2537
Washington
(435) 986-2557

Most insurance plans cover immunizations. Children who are uninsured can get vaccines at a reduced rate. Many doctors, clinics, and pharmacies also offer immunization services. For more information on Utah’s school vaccine requirements, visit tinyurl.com/school-immz.

###

The mission of the Southwest Utah Public Health Department is to protect the community’s health through the promotion of wellness and the prevention of disease. Visit our website at swuhealth.gov.