



NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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(8/7/23) Stay Up to Date with Routine Vaccinations (August is National Immunization Month)

August is National Immunization Month. As part of the CDC's "Stay Up To Date" Campaign, Southern 7 Health Department (S7HD) is reminding families it's not too late to schedule your child's back-to-school shots, and to make sure you're up to date too.

"As parents, when it comes to going back to school, we tend to focus on filling backpacks and scheduling fall sports, but vaccinations should be at the top of your to-do list, not just for the kids but for the whole family", said Shawna Rhine, S7HD Community Outreach Coordinator. "Scheduling your child's appointment early gives you plenty of time to collect necessary paperwork, confirm what vaccines are needed, and helps to ensure there are no delays at the vaccine appointment. Just don't forget to check your shot record too."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CDC reported a concerning drop in routine immunizations for children and adults. Vaccination rates among Kindergarteners have remained high and stable for decades in the U.S. However, during the two school years following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, coverage dropped from 95% to 93%; the lowest level in the last decade.

Routine vaccination is rebounding but unevenly and has not yet recovered among all groups. Many children and adults that delayed vaccination during the pandemic are still behind schedule. Vaccines are one of our greatest defenses against many serious and potentially life-threatening illnesses, and have proven to be safe and effective in protecting them from serious diseases.

Southern 7 Health Department provides the recommended vaccinations for all ages at each of their seven public health clinic offices. Children and adults can also schedule their flu and COVID-19 shots at the department as needed.

To help make the process a bit easier for kids, children immunized through Southern 7 Health Department will receive a coupon, while supplies last, for a free ice cream cone from Dairy Queen restaurants in Anna and Vienna as part of the department's annual "Ice Cream for Vaccines" program.

To find out if you and your child are current for routine vaccinations, or to schedule an appointment at a public health clinic near you, call 618-634-2297, visit southern7.org, or download the Southern 7 app.

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