



ALAMANCE COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 7, 2015

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New Immunization Requirements for Kindergarteners and Seventh Graders

Burlington- The Alamance County Health Department wants parents to know there are new immunization requirements for rising kindergarteners and 7th graders in order to enroll in school.

Kindergarten

Children who start kindergarten on or after July 1, 2015 will be required to have additional vaccines to protect them from serious diseases. Kindergartners will now be required to have two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine if they do not have a history of disease documented by a health care provider and the 4th dose of polio vaccine must be given after 4 years of age and before entering school for the first time.

7th Grade

Children who start 7th grade on or after July 1, 2015 will be required to have vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to protect them from serious diseases. Students entering 7th grade will be required to have one dose each of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) and meningococcal vaccines if they have not previously received these vaccines.

In the last several years, the use of vaccines has resulted in the decrease of several serious childhood infections and diseases including measles, pertussis, and varicella (chicken pox). However, these infections do still exist and can cause serious illness, disabilities and even death. Don't let your child go unprotected. Vaccines are safe and effective. The most common side effects are pain and swelling at the site where the shot was given. Some people may experience a headache and fever. Serious reactions to vaccines are very rare.

“As parents are preparing for their children to begin to school, one of the most important things they can do is make sure their child is up to date with their vaccines,” states Christie Sykes, RN, Immunization Coordinator at Alamance County Health Department. “Contact your child’s primary care provider or your local health department to discuss what vaccines your child may need to be protected and for school entry”.

Proof of up-to-date vaccinations is required on the first day of school. Please remember to bring your child’s shot record for school entry. You can get your child’s shot record from his/her doctor or the local health department.

To learn more about these vaccines and the diseases they prevent visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines or the North Carolina Immunization Branch website at www.immunize.nc.gov.



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