



MEDIA RELEASE

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Knox County Health Department extends hours for back-to-school immunizations

Knoxville, Tenn. — Beginning Aug. 1, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) will offer extended hours to better accommodate parents seeking back-to-school vaccinations for their children. KCHD's Travel and Immunization Clinic at the Dameron Ave. location, and its West and Teague Clinics will take appointments from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday from Aug. 1 through 12.

"We want to make this process as convenient and easy for parents as possible, who we know are especially busy this time of year," said KCHD Clinical Services Manager Dena Mashburn, N.P. "We encourage parents to make an appointment with their child's physician or our staff as soon as possible if they haven't already."

All students entering preschool, kindergarten or seventh grade and those entering a Tennessee school for the first time should receive state-required immunizations. A list of the required vaccinations by grade level is available on KCHD's website: knoxcounty.org/health. Before the first day of school, parents must also provide their child's school with [a state immunization certificate](#), which documents receipt of the vaccinations.

Parents who wish to have their children vaccinated at KCHD may complete an [online registration form](#) to expedite the process. At the appointment, parents should have their photo ID, insurance card and their child's vaccination record. Most insurance plans cover preventive services such as vaccines, but parents are encouraged to confirm this with their insurance provider prior to the appointment. Vaccines are available to children who do not have insurance at no cost. There is a minimal fee for administration. Appointments are available at each KCHD location:

- Main Offices and Clinic, 140 Dameron Avenue, 865-215-5070
- Teague Clinic, 405 Dante School Road, 865-215-5500
- West Clinic, 1028 Old Cedar Bluff, 865-215-5950

Both the vaccinations and the state immunization certificates are available at physician offices or at the KCHD locations listed above. Parents may contact their child's physician or the KCHD Immunization Program office, 865-215-5150, to determine if their child has received the required vaccinations.

Tennessee's vaccine requirements follow recommendations from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Childhood immunizations are vital in protecting children from potentially serious diseases. The CDC estimates vaccinations will prevent more than 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths among children born in the last 20 years.

About Knox County Health Department:

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is a governmental agency dedicated to making every person a healthy person. As the first health department in Tennessee to achieve national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, KCHD's mission is to encourage, promote and assure the development of an active, healthy community through innovative public health practices. The organization conducts disease surveillance, prevention and control; emergency preparedness; nutrition and physical activity promotion; tobacco use prevention; health equity promotion; immunizations; and much more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

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