



NEWS RELEASE

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Health Partners Team Up to Offer Vaccination Clinics in Williston and Watford City for School-Aged Children

BISMARCK, N.D. – As back-to-school time arrives again, large enrollment numbers are expected in schools across the oil patch in North Dakota as the population in the western part of the state continues to increase. With all of these new students, the North Dakota Department of Health is reminding parents in this area how important it is that school-aged children are fully immunized for the new school year.

To meet this pressing need, a coalition of health-care partners will be teaming up to offer easy, affordable immunizations to any school-aged children or teenagers through vaccination clinics scheduled in Williston and Watford City.

The Department of Health, Southwestern District Health Unit, Trinity Health in Minot, Mercy Medical Center in Williston, McKenzie County Hospital in Watford City, Craven-Hagan Clinic and Upper Missouri District Health Unit are joining together to provide this service in these two communities. The vaccination clinics will be open in Watford City on Sept. 14 and 28, and Oct. 12, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. CDT, at the Watford City Fairgrounds. And clinics will be open in Williston on Sept. 15 and 29, and Oct. 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. CDT, at the Williston Fairgrounds.

“By increasing access to these required immunizations in this region of the state, we hope to minimize the spread of preventable illnesses in their schools and provide children with a

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healthier environment in which to learn,” said Molly Howell, Immunization Program manager for the North Dakota Department of Health. “It is so important that we provide this assistance to help assure that as many children as possible will meet the immunization requirements set forward by the state.”

The cost per vaccine for children eligible for the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program will be \$13.90. Eligible children include those who are Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, uninsured, or underinsured (have health insurance but it does not cover the cost of the vaccine). The cost per vaccine for insured children will be \$24. Costs will be billed directly to Medicaid or Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota. Anyone with other insurances or BCBS from other states will need to submit claims for reimbursement. Credit cards will not be accepted; cash or check only. No one will be turned away due to the inability to pay.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Everyone seeking vaccinations must bring insurance information and their complete immunization records. Any individuals from out-of-state should bring vaccination records from the states they previously lived in. For more information on how to find your immunization records from North Dakota or for contact information for all other states’ health departments, visit www.ndhealth.gov/immunize. Staff at the clinics will make every effort to look up records for anyone who shows up without theirs.

“With so many new residents in this part of the state, we are seeing an increased need for a wide variety of services, including these important vaccinations for school-aged children,” said Sherry Adams, Executive Officer at Southwestern District Public Health Unit. “New North Dakota residents should contact the state health department in the state they previously lived in, or their previous health-care provider, to find their child’s immunization record.”

Children entering elementary school should have five doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis), four doses of IPV (polio), three doses of HBV (hepatitis B), two doses of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), and two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. There also are vaccines required for adolescents when entering middle school. Middle school requirements include an immunization against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal disease (MCV4). This is also an excellent time for high school seniors to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease, as they will need two doses to attend college in North Dakota next fall. Other vaccines may also be recommended for your child.

Language translation service will be available for those who cannot speak English. The clinics will be handicapped-accessible. Anyone in Williston should tune their radios to 1620 AM to hear more information about these clinics, including expected wait times on the days of the clinics.

For more information on school immunization requirements, contact Molly Howell, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4556, or visit our website at www.ndhealth.gov/immunize. For information about the vaccination clinics in Williston and Watford City, contact Sherry Adams, Southwestern District Public Health Unit, at 701.290.8518.

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