PRESS RELEASE

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Re: School Immunizations

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It’s back to school time which means parents need to make sure their child’s immunization records and school physicals for the appropriate grades are up to date, especially for children entering kindergarten and sixth grade.

The youngest children entering preschool must have their immunizations up to date with the new guidelines which include the Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), as well as an additional dose of varicella vaccine. Plus, a school physical and vision exam is required. A physical is required for children entering kindergarten, if they have not had one at preschool age, along with a dental exam. If students had a vision exam completed in preschool, another eye exam is not required. According to new guidelines, a second varicella is required for kindergarten entry.

One dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) and the second varicella vaccine is due for students 11 or 12-years or older entering sixth grade. Sixth graders must also update their tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine, known as Tdap, along with their sixth grade physical.

Further information can be found online at http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/902/002/060.htm.