



Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Make Sure Your Child's Vaccines Are Up-To-Date When School Starts

Watertown, NY – August 5, 2012 ~The Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS) encourages that all children get check-ups and immunizations **before** school starts this fall. Parents should contact the child's health care provider to check which vaccines their child may need and schedule an appointment with their provider.

Vaccines that you and your child may need include:

- **Tdap vaccine** protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. Tdap is also recommended for all adults. This is especially important for adults who live with an infant and for childcare providers.
- **Human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine** prevents sexually transmitted cancer and other diseases caused by certain types of HPV. The vaccine, Gardasil®, protects against four HPV types, which together cause 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts. The HPV vaccine is recommended for 11-26 year-old females and males.
- **Meningococcal vaccine** protects adolescents and college students from the devastating effects of bacterial meningococcal disease that causes swelling of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. The meningococcal vaccine is recommended for children 11-12 years old, with a booster dose recommended at 16-18 years of age. It is further recommended that **ALL** adolescents who were not previously immunized receive the vaccine. College freshmen living in dormitories should also receive this immunization.
- **Varicella vaccine** protects against chickenpox.
- **Annual Flu vaccine** protects against influenza and is recommended annually for all persons 6 months and older.

The JCPHS immunization clinic is held every Wednesday from 12:30-3:30pm for families needing vaccinations. On August 7th and September 4th, the immunization clinic will have extended hours of 12:30-5pm. It is important to note that in addition to state *required* vaccines for school entry, there are several other vaccines that are *recommended* that will best protect your child from multiple vaccine-preventable diseases. Be sure you and your child are up-to-date on immunizations by visiting www.jcphs.org and clicking on the vaccine schedule link or call the Jefferson County Public Health Service at 786-3720.

~End~