



**Getting Back-to-School Ready:
Early Well-Child Visits Critical for Immunization and Health Screening**

July 11, 2024

For Immediate Release

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Grace Schmidt, Benton County Public Health, 319-214-2601
Lorinda Sheeler, Iowa County Public Health, 319-741-6422
Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Johnson County Public Health, 319-356-6040
Riley Cole, Linn County Public Health, 319-892-6084

Press Release – As we approach the midway point of summer vacation, the local health departments of Benton, Iowa, Johnson, and Linn counties are urging parents and guardians to schedule well-child visits for their children now to ensure they meet state health requirements and start the next school year healthy and prepared. Appointment schedules are already filling up in many provider offices.

Per Iowa Code, Chapter 139a. 8(6) and Iowa Administrative Code, 641-7.7(139), students attending licensed childcare centers and elementary or secondary schools shall receive required immunizations and submit the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Certificate of Immunization, or have a valid Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization to the childcare center or school prior to the start of the school year. Additionally, a Certificate of Vision screening and Dental screening from their primary care physician may be required by the school prior to the start of the school year.

Ensuring children are current on their vaccinations and health screenings is crucial for a safe and healthy school environment. By scheduling well-child visits early, parents can avoid the last-minute rush and ensure their child is prepared for the start of the school year.

Well-child visits serve as an opportunity for healthcare providers to:

1. Review immunization records: Ensure children receive all required and recommended vaccinations for their age group, as outlined by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.
2. Conduct health screenings: These screenings ensure a child's vision, dental, and hearing are good, as these can impact a child's ability to learn.
3. Update health records: Provide schools with the necessary documentation to ensure school or childcare staff have the needed information to keep your child healthy.

4. Discuss health and safety: Counsel parents on various health and safety topics, including nutrition, exercise, and preventive measures against illnesses.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their child's primary care physician as soon as possible to schedule a well-child visit and to ask about recommended vaccines for your child's grade level especially those entering kindergarten, 7th grade, and 12th grade. Additionally, schools may provide information on health requirements and necessary forms.

For more information on immunization and health requirements for school attendance, please visit the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services website or contact your local health department at:

Benton County Public Health at 319-214-2601
Iowa County Public Health at 319-741-6422
Johnson County Public Health at 319-356-6040
Linn County Public Health at 319-892-6093

Let's work together to keep our children healthy and ready to learn as they head back to school!

[###](#)