

**For Immediate Release**

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**Vaccines for Children Offered May 11th in Curtis**

**Curtis-** Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) will be offering the Vaccines for Children program at Medicine Valley High School from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11th. Clinics are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month.

“It’s never too early to start thinking about shots your child will need for the upcoming school year,” states Melissa Propp, Public Health Nurse and VFC Clinic coordinator for SWNPHD. “We look forward to working with Shelly Wills, Medicine Valley school nurse to make sure students have their required shots for school.” A parent or guardian is required to attend the clinic with their child. If a parent is unable to attend, please contact SWNPHD for a proxy permission form.

SWNPHD was recently included in the Nebraska Immunization Program Title 317 funding that expands the available adult vaccines given for free. We can provide vaccines for adults (19 years & older) who are un-insured, underinsured (health insurance does not provide coverage for preventive shots) or do not have supplemental insurance with Medicare A or B. Shots covered include: flu (influenza), Zoster (shingles), Pneumonia, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough), MMR (mumps, measles, rubella), Hepatitis A & B, Varicella (chicken pox), HPV and Meningococcal.

We welcome those going on mission trips or travelling abroad for their recommended shots. Please schedule an appointment by calling 308-345-4223. Walk-ins are welcome.

“Vaccines for Children” is a program that provides immunizations to eligible children, 18 years old and younger. Eligibility is defined as those who are Medicaid eligible, uninsured, underinsured (health insurance does not provide coverage for childhood immunizations), and/or American Indian or Alaska Natives.

“If parents are planning to be in McCook, they can schedule their student shots during office hours of Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:00 p.m. by calling 308-345-4223,” explains Propp. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, one block north of Arby’s.

SWNPHD has added lead testing, monthly blood draws and child care provider screenings to their clinic services. For a listing of available tests and insurances accepted by SWNPHD, go to our website: [www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov).

Immunizations are one of the most effective and cost efficient ways to prevent disease. For every dollar spent on immunizations, it saves as much as \$29.00 in direct and indirect health costs.

More information on immunizations is available on the website. You can also follow us on Facebook.com/swnphd and Twitter@swpublichealth. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow counties.



Katie Gerlach smiles as she prepares for her school shots from Medicine Valley School Nurse Shelly Wills and SWNPHD Nurse Melissa Propp, RN.