

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Vaccines for Children Offered June 9th 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, June 9th. Clinics are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month.

This is a perfect opportunity for you to bring your upcoming Kindergarten, 7<sup>th</sup> grade and college students for their required school immunizations or to get students caught up on their shots. We also 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.

“We look forward to working with Shelly Wills, Medicine Valley school nurse to make sure students have their required shots for school,” states Melissa Propp, Public Health Nurse and VFC Clinic coordinator for SWNPHD. 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.

“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.

Kindergarten students will need: DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis), IPV (Polio) MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) and VAR (Chickenpox).

7<sup>th</sup> Grade students will need: Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis), Optional: HPV (Human Papillomavirus), MCV4 (Meningococcal) and if they have not had their second VAR (chickenpox) that will also be required.

College freshmen requirements vary by institution but typically require: Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis), IPV (Polio), MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella), MCV4 (Meningococcal) and VAR (Chickenpox). Please confirm with your college on your required vaccines.

“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 recently added lead testing, blood draws and child care provider screenings to their clinic services. For a listing of available tests and insurances that we accept go to [www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov).

SWNPHD also provides adult immunizations, such as shingles, whooping cough, tetanus and flu shots. We can bill Medicare and numerous insurance companies. Please call SWNPHD to

confirm your insurance coverage or see if you are eligible for free shots by meeting certain income criteria.

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 and you can follow us on Facebook or Twitter. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

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