



**For immediate release**

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## **Health Dept. Expands Hours for Back-to-School Shots**

Lewis and Clark Public Health will hold extra walk-in immunization clinics over the next two weeks, to accommodate children who need back-to-school shots.

During the week of Aug. 22, clinics will be held Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. From Aug. 29 through Sept. 2, clinics will be held daily.

All clinics run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the health department, 1930 Ninth Avenue. No appointment is needed, and the department bills all insurance providers.

Under Montana law, students attending public school must complete a series of vaccinations before entering preschool, kindergarten, and seventh grade. The shots help to prevent the spread of several serious infectious diseases, like diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, and chickenpox.

A new law, passed by the 2015 Legislature, requires children entering grades K-12 to have two doses of chickenpox vaccine given after the age of 1. Also, students entering grades 7-12 must have a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) booster.

Parents and guardians are required by state law to provide their school district with a valid immunization record signed by a doctor or nurse. Public schools may refuse to accept students who have not been fully immunized, although exemptions are available for medical or religious reasons.

Reduced-cost immunizations are available for low-income families through the health department's Vaccines for Children Program. No child is turned away because of inability to pay.

For more information, call the health department, 457-8900, or visit [www.lewisandclarkhealth.org](http://www.lewisandclarkhealth.org)