



# Back to School Health

The health department wants your kids to be healthy and ready to learn when they start school this year. We can help kids be ready by providing services such as immunizations and hearing and vision screenings that are required for children to enter school.

## Immunizations

It is always important to keep your children's vaccinations up-to-date starting in infancy through adolescence to protect them from serious diseases. The following table outlines the vaccination requirements for children before they are allowed to enter school.

Vaccines contain tiny amounts of viruses or bacteria compared to the large amounts of germs people come in contact with every day. A healthy child's immune system has no problem handling vaccinations.

You can visit the health department or your private healthcare provider to get vaccinations for your children. If you are unable to pay for the shots and do not have insurance, you may be eligible for the federal Vaccines for Children program which provides no-cost vaccinations to children whose families are unable to pay.



**There are new requirements for immunization for the 2010-11 school year. The new requirements state that all students ages 11-18 who will be enrolling in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or changing school districts for the 2010-11 school year are required to have one dose of the Meningitis vaccine, one dose of the Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine, and a second dose of the chickenpox (Varicella) vaccine. These doses must have been administered after the student has turned 11 years old.**

Side effects from immunizations can include mild fever, drowsiness, redness, soreness, and swelling at injection site. To ease injection site pain, apply ice cubes in a cold, wet washcloth, or take over-the-counter Acetaminophen (like Tylenol®), NEVER ASPIRIN.

*Required Childhood Immunizations for Michigan School Settings*

Entry Requirements for All Public & Non-Public Schools		
Age → Vaccine** ↓	4 years through 6 years	7 years through 18 years including all 6th grade students
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	4 doses DTP or DTaP, one dose must be on or after 4 years of age	4 doses D and T OR 3 doses Td if #1 given on or after 7 years of age. 1 dose of Tdap for children 11 through 18 years IF 5 years since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccine.
Polio	4 doses, if dose 3 administered on or after 4 years of age, only 3 doses are required	3 doses
Measles,* Mumps,* Rubella*	2 doses on or after 12 months of age	
Hepatitis B*	3 doses	
Meningococcal	None	1 dose for children 11-18 years of age
Varicella* (Chickenpox)	2 doses of varicella vaccine at or after 12 months of age OR current lab immunity OR reliable history of disease	

\* Current laboratory evidence of immunity is acceptable instead of immunization with antigen.

For more information, please refer to [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize)

\*\*All doses of vaccines must be given with appropriate spacing between doses and at appropriate ages to be considered valid.



Rev. Jan 2010

## Hearing and Vision

Children often do not realize that they cannot see or hear adequately, so it is important that all children have complete hearing and vision checks during pre-school and through their school years. In fact, Michigan's Public Health Code re

quires that children receive free hearing and vision screenings, which are provided by the health department. These screenings help to identify potential problems as early as possible so that children can get the treatment they need to be able to see,

hear, and learn. Children must be screened at least once prior to entering kindergarten. All clinics are free of charge and no appointments are needed. Upcoming community screening clinics are as follows:

Location	Date	Time
Orchards Mall Community Center, Benton Harbor	Monday, August 23	9:00-12:30, 2:00-6:00
BCHD at 2106 S. M-139 Benton Harbor	Tuesday August 24	8:30-11:30, 1:30-3:30
BCHD at 1205 N. Front St, Niles	Thursday, August 26	8:30-11:30, 1:30-3:30
Benton Harbor Charter School on Riverview Dr.	Monday, August 30	8:30-11:30, 1:30-3:30

For more information, contact the Health Department at 926-7121 or visit our website at [www.bchdmi.org](http://www.bchdmi.org).

