



**Health and Human Services Department
Public Health Division**
36 SW Nye Street (Mailing)
255 Oregon Coast Hwy Suite 203A (Physical)
Newport, Oregon 97365

Telephone: (541) 265-4112



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Lincoln County

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Contact person: Mollie Vance
mvance@co.lincoln.or.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School Immunization Exclusion Date Approaching
It is the Law to Get Shots for School

NEWPORT, Ore. – To avoid outbreaks of disease and to keep our children and community healthy, Oregon requires by law that all students attending public and private schools, preschools, child care facilities, and Head Start programs receive required vaccinations. To help increase the number of people vaccinated every year, these programs submit immunization records to the Health Department. When a student is not up-to-date on required vaccines or does not have proper documentation for an exemption, the student will receive a letter of exclusion from the Health Department. Until proper documentation of immunization status is received, the student is unable to return to school. This year's school exclusion date is February 21st, 2018.

Students can receive immunizations from their primary care provider, Lincoln County Public Health, or one of our four school based health centers. Some local pharmacies may also provide immunizations to adolescents 7 years and older. Because not all pharmacies are able to perform vaccinations, it is recommended to call the pharmacy of choice beforehand.

Thanks to vaccines, it has become less common to see vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. However, these outbreaks can still happen when groups of people go unvaccinated. In early 2015, a measles outbreak linked to Disneyland occurred, sickening 147 people in the United States with the majority among un- and under-vaccinated individuals. Most recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) immunization website states that in 2017, 120 people from 15 states were reported to have measles. Again, the majority of these cases are among those who have not received the measles vaccine.

If a measles outbreak were to occur at a Lincoln County school, to control the spread of disease, unvaccinated children and staff would be excluded from school for 21 days. The more people who are vaccinated, the more difficult it is for the vaccine-preventable disease to spread; this is called herd immunity.

To find more information on what vaccinations your child needs for school, visit <http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/hhs/page/immunizations>. The Lincoln County Public Health Clinic is

located at 36 SW Nye Street, Newport and is available at 541-265-4112 if you have questions or need information on your child's immunization status.

Lincoln County Public Health, in collaboration with our community partners, provides leadership to assure the conditions for healthy communities.

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