



CHANGES TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE JULY 1

HICKORY, NC – Beginning July 1, 2015, several changes to North Carolina immunization requirements will become effective. These changes, which are in addition to existing requirements, affect infants, rising kindergarteners, and rising seventh graders:

- **Infants:** Children born on or after July 1, 2015 will now be required to receive a 4 vaccine series of Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV).
- **Rising Kindergarteners:** Children entering kindergarten in the school year 2015-16 or later will now be required to receive a second dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine before starting school. They will also be required to receive their fourth dose of Polio vaccine after their fourth birthday.
- **Rising Seventh Graders:** Students entering seventh grade in the school year 2015-16 or later will now be required to have one dose of Tdap vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria, Pertussis) and one dose of Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) prior to the start of seventh grade.

Immunizations are required by law for entry into North Carolina schools. Parents have 30 days from the first day of school to provide an up-to-date immunization record or their child may be excluded from school until the required proof is provided.

Parents are advised to make appointments for back-to-school vaccines in the spring and early summer, because vaccination appointments can sometimes be difficult to schedule closer to the start of school.

To learn more about required and recommended vaccines, parents are encouraged to talk with their child's healthcare provider. The full schedule of recommended childhood vaccines, along with information about the new requirements, adult vaccines, and foreign travel vaccines, can be found on Catawba County Public Health's website at www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Public Health's Immunization Clinic, please call Catawba County Public Health at (828) 695-5800.

Located off Fairgrove Church Road behind Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, N.C., Catawba County Public Health works to protect and promote the health of all county residents. For more information, please call (828) 695-5800 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.

"Leading the Way to a Healthier Community"