



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
August 24, 2007

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS MAKING SURE KIDS HAVE THEIR IMMUNIZATIONS *Kids Need Shots To Be Protected From Disease, And To Enter School*

Summer is winding down, and children are heading back to school. Buying clothes and school supplies often top the to-do list, but one very important item should also be on the list: immunizations.

August is a good opportunity to remind people about immunizations because it is National Immunization Awareness Month, an observance designed to help educate persons of all ages about how immunizations can protect their health. This month, County of San Diego HHSA (Health and Human Services Agency) is promoting immunizations in cooperation with the San Diego County Library. The 33 branch libraries and two mobile libraries have put up displays of immunization information.

"This is a busy time of year, and parents may forget about making sure their kids have all the shots they need for school entry," said Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "But checking their children's immunization records is important.

"First, children and adolescents may need shots to fully protect them against serious diseases like pertussis (whooping cough), measles, and tetanus," said Dr. Wooten. "And, children may be excluded from school without proper proof of immunizations—and of course parents don't want children to miss any part of their education."

Making sure children have their immunizations doesn't have to be hard. Parents can review their children's immunization records with their child's doctor or clinic. Or, they can call the Childhood Immunization Telephone Line at (888) 692-2575 during business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) to review the records with a nurse. The Line can also provide referrals to free or low-cost immunization services.

For more information about immunizations and the diseases they protect against, please visit the HHSA Immunizations website at www.sdiz.org or call (619) 692-8661.

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