

# Is your child ready for middle school?

## State-required vaccinations

Vaccinations are an important part of keeping your child healthy, and they continue throughout childhood. Middle school-aged children should receive a Tdap vaccination, approved for those 11 years and older. In addition, students should have already had two doses of the varicella vaccine. A certificate of immunization for both of these vaccinations is required prior to entering 7th grade. But you don't have to wait a year.

Have your child vaccinated now, so you don't become part of the August crowds at doctors' offices.

**Where:** Vaccines and immunization certificates are available at your pediatrician's office or the Knox County Health Department. To get your child vaccinated at the health department, please schedule an appointment. Call 865-215-5071 for the downtown location, 865-215-5500 for the North Knoxville location, and 865-215-5950 for the West Knoxville location.

**Questions:** For more information about the school immunization policy, call 865-594-3735.

To find out if your child has proof of the required vaccines, contact the medical office or clinic where your child receives vaccinations, or you may call 865-215-5150.

Tdap provides protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). The varicella vaccine provides protection from chickenpox.

Please note the varicella vaccine is **not** required if your child had chickenpox. In this case, you must provide the year your child had chickenpox to the pediatrician or health department staff issuing the new immunization certificate.

**Knox County Health Department**  
Every Person, A Healthy Person



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## Schedule an appointment today and beat the rush!

Last year, hundreds of parents and students waited until the first day of school to get vaccinations. Those coming to the health department waited in very long lines, and in fact, many had to return the next day.