To: Local News Media
From: Central Michigan District Health Department
RE: Back to School Immunization Requirements
Release Date: August 2015

Are your children up-to-date with their immunizations?

Protect your school-aged children against diseases by getting them and your entire family immunized. This will help you stay healthy and will meet school requirements, too!

Immunizations are just one of the many things to think about when a new school year rolls around, especially if your child is entering kindergarten, 7th grade or changing school districts. In January 2015, a new rule went into effect regarding nonmedical waivers. A parent or guardian who wishes to have any or all of the required immunizations waived for their child must meet with their local health department to discuss the benefits and risks of vaccine-preventable diseases. This new rule does not take away the right to obtain a nonmedical waiver. Immunization waivers for medical reasons must be obtained from a physician.

School-aged children need to be protected against Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping cough), Diphtheria, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal and Chickenpox (Varicella). The number of doses needed varies by age. To view the immunization requirements for school-aged children, visit http://www.mcir.org/forms/SS_School_Requirements.pdf.

Please contact your physician or local health department to make sure your child is ready for school! The Central Michigan District Health Department provides immunizations by appointment (we offer immunizations to those with and without medical/insurance coverage). A small fee may apply for immunizations received; however, no child is turned away for immunizations based on income or an inability to pay. For more information, to set up an appointment for immunizations or to discuss nonmedical waivers, please call:

- Arenac County: 989-846-6541 ext. 15
- Clare County: 989-539-6731 ext. 15
- Gladwin County: 989-426-9431 ext. 15
• Isabella County: 989-773-5921 ext. 15
• Osceola County: 231-832-5532 ext. 15
• Roscommon County: 989-366-9166 ext. 15

If you would like an opportunity to get involved in improving access to health services, consider joining Together We Can. Together We Can is a community project aimed at improving health status in central Michigan. For more information, LIKE Together We Can Health Improvement Council on Facebook, visit our website at www.together-we-can.org or email us at TogetherWeCan@cmdhd.org.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org, LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the Media Interview Request Form.