



PRESS RELEASE FOR MEDIA OUTLETS

Central Michigan District Health Department
"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"

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To: Local Newspapers

From: Erin Glaros, Health Promotion and Preparedness Intern

RE: Going back to school

Release Date: Immediately

Doctor visits, immunization appointments and hearing/vision tests are all a part of starting school or going back to school each fall.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children visit their doctor each year for a physical exam. Regular exams help to identify potential health problems and also keep track of existing health problems. Exams may include: height and weight measurements, information about your child's development, hearing and/or vision tests, and in some cases, blood tests. If your child has not had their yearly physical exam, please contact your doctor to make an appointment today.

New immunization requirements for school-aged kids are happening this fall. Two doses of Varicella vaccine or a history of the chickenpox disease will be required for all children entering kindergarten, all sixth graders, and all children changing school districts. The following vaccines will be required for all children ages 11 to 18 years who are changing school districts or who are enrolled in the sixth grade:

- One dose of meningococcal vaccine (MCV4)
- One dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) or if five years have passed since last dose of tetanus/diphtheria vaccine (DTaP, Td, DT)

Children enrolled in private and public schools participate in hearing and/or vision screenings each year as a requirement of the State of Michigan. Hearing and vision screenings are done on an alternating basis depending upon grade level. Central Michigan District Health Department (Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon Counties) will be offering hearing and

vision screening appointments during the month of August for kindergartners who missed kindergarten round-up and home-schooled children. Children in other grade levels will receive their screenings during school hours throughout the 2010-2011 school year.

Please contact your local health department or medical provider in order to make sure your child is ready to go back to school! This article was brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon.

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