



PUBLIC HEALTH IS PRICELESS

# VERMILION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- Please contact Doug Toole at 431-2662, ext. 243 or at [dtoole@vchd.org](mailto:dtoole@vchd.org) if you have questions.

DANVILLE – The health department is adding extra clinics this summer to provide required Tdap vaccinations for students.

A recent change in the state code now requires older students to be vaccinated against pertussis, which is more commonly known as Whooping Cough.

The Illinois Department of Public Health amended the Child Health Examination Code Part 665 to require students entering, advancing or transferring into the sixth through the 12th grades to show proof of receiving one dose of Tdap vaccine (which includes tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis.)

Those students will need to show proof of a Tdap vaccination for the 2013-14 school year, regardless of when they received their last vaccine against pertussis, tetanus or diphtheria.

There has been an increase in pertussis cases among school-aged children in Illinois starting in 2010, and continuing throughout 2012. Vaccinating children and adolescents has proven to be effective in reducing the spread of pertussis within communities.

“We have been protecting children and adults in the Vermilion County community with immunizations for nearly 40 years,” said Public Health Administrator Shirley Hicks. “This is one of our core functions, and we urge parents to vaccinate their children against communicable diseases.”

Healthcare providers are starting now to immunize their patients at the earliest opportunity to meet this school requirement, and the Vermilion County Health Department has scheduled extra clinics to provide for the influx of students needing vaccinations.



To schedule an appointment for a Tdap vaccination at the health department, please call (217) 431-2662, ext. 249. The health department is located at 200 South College Street in Danville.

In most cases, a parent or legal guardian must bring the child to the appointment and sign consent forms. Arrangements can be made in advance to have someone other than the parent or guardian bring the child to the appointment if the paperwork has already been signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Children getting just the Tdap vaccination do not need to bring their shot records to the health department, but anyone wanting other vaccinations will need to bring their shot records with them.

The cost for the Tdap vaccine is \$15. The health department accepts cash, checks or current public aid cards.

Extra clinics will be held on :

July 11, 2013 -- 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

July 16, 2013 -- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

July 23, 2013 -- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

July 30, 2013 -- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 8, 2013 -- 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 13, 2013 -- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 22, 2013 -- 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 28, 2013 -- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

“Beat the rush before school begins and call us today to schedule your appointment,” said Sherrie Shoemaker, Immunization Coordinator with the health department.

Additional information on the health department’s immunization department, on the regular immunization clinic schedule, on pertussis and on the new school vaccination requirements can be found on the health department’s website, [www.vchd.org](http://www.vchd.org). ###