



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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SUMMER IS WINDING DOWN—DO YOUR KIDS HAVE ALL THEIR SHOTS? *Back-to-School Rush Can Make It Easy To Forget*

Summer is heading into its final weeks, and, although children may not be thinking about back-to-school, their parents probably are. Some local schools and school districts start classes in August. There are many details to attend to before the school year begins, but one very important item may not be on the to-do list: immunizations.

"During this hectic time, parents may forget about making sure their kids have all the shots they need for school entry," said Nancy Bowen, M.D., San Diego County H.H.S.A. Public Health Officer. "But checking the children's immunization status has two important benefits.

"First, children and adolescents may need shots to fully protect them against serious diseases like tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and measles," said Dr. Bowen. "Second, children may be excluded from school without proper proof of immunizations—and that can be a significant inconvenience for parents."

Making sure children are fully protected and avoiding the inconvenience of having kids excluded from school doesn't have to be a chore. Parents can locate their children's immunization records and call their child's doctor or clinic to review the records. Or, they can call the Baby Shots Line at (888) 692-2575 during business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) for an immunization record review with a nurse. The Baby Shots 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 San Diego County Immunization Initiative website at <http://www.immunization-sd.org> or call (619) 692-8661.

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