FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Don’t Delay! Back-to-School Vaccines Available Now

HAYDEN, ID — The start of the 2017-18 school year is quickly approaching and Panhandle Health District (PHD) is reminding North Idaho parents to plan ahead for children’s immunizations. Each year, hundreds of local students visit Care Plus clinics at PHD to get vaccinated and meet school-entry requirements.

In 2016, 14 percent of all Kindergarten, 1st grade and 7th grade students in North Idaho were not adequately immunized due to vaccine exemptions.

“The number of exemptions is concerning,” said Lisa Hylsky, PHD’s Immunization Coordinator. “If an outbreak of chickenpox, measles, mumps or pertussis were to occur in a local school, under or un-vaccinated students could be asked to stay home from school for days, weeks or even months.”

PHD is working to improve access to vaccines by offering extended clinic hours and walk-in appointments. Its Hayden location will be hosting walk-in clinics on the following dates:

Thursday, August 24th, 5:00-7:00 PM
Thursday, August 31st, 5:00-7:00 PM
Thursday, September 7th, 5:00-7:00 PM

Students under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Those without insurance will be provided vaccines at no cost. Any and all fees not covered by insurance will be waived.

“Making sure that children receive all their vaccinations on time is one of the most important things you can do as a parent, Lora Whalen, PHD Director stated. “Getting immunized protects your family, as well as the health of classmates, friends and others in our community.”

Parents can contact their child’s physician or call Panhandle Health District to ensure their children have received the recommended vaccines and doses for their age. PHD provides vaccines and vaccine education for all ages, throughout the school year.

To make an appointment, call any of the five Care Plus Clinics at PHD locations. It’s suggested that parents call now and beat the back-to-school rush. For more information about Idaho’s immunization recommendations and requirements, visit: panhandlehealthdistrict.org.

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