

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 5, 2013

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Immunizations protect against serious diseases, recommended throughout our lives

(Lawrence, KS) – As part of National Immunization Awareness Month, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department encourages residents of all ages to make sure they are up-to-date on their vaccinations.

Immunizations are one of the Top 10 public health accomplishments of the 20th Century. Vaccines have helped eradicate certain diseases in the U.S. and have also significantly reduced the number of cases. But despite these efforts, today tens of thousands of people in the U.S. still die from these and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccination is important because it not only protects the person receiving the vaccine, but also helps prevent the spread of disease, especially to those who are vulnerable to serious complications such as infants and young children, the elderly, and those with chronic conditions and weakened immune systems.

Kathy Colson, registered nurse and clinic supervisor at the Health Department, said, “The need for vaccination does not end in childhood. Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives based on factors such as age, lifestyle, occupation, travel locations, medical conditions and previous vaccination history.”

Immunizations are available at the Health Department during clinic hours. No appointment is necessary. Douglas County residents may qualify to receive immunizations at a reduced cost through state and federal programs. For more information about vaccines or to check your immunization record, contact your physician or call the Health Department at 843-0721.

About the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

The Health Department has served the Lawrence and Douglas County community for more than 120 years. Its mission is to advance policies, practices and programs that promote health for all, prevent disease and protect the environment.