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Tuscarawas County
Health Department

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Summer Is a Good Time to Catch Up on Recommended Vaccines for Children

DOVER—During the past two years, many area families were unable to keep up with routine vaccinations for their children due to the challenges of the Pandemic. Due to the fall in immunization rates, the United States is beginning to see a rise in vaccine-preventable diseases such as whooping cough and measles. With fewer severe cases of COVID-19 in our community, now is a great time to get school-aged children up to date on vaccines before the back-to-school rush in August. The Tuscarawas County Health Department's (TCHD) Medical Clinic can help area families by offering a wide range of back-to-school vaccines to area students. Additionally, TCHD offers childhood vaccination appointments at affordable rates thanks to a grant from the Ohio Department of Health.

“With students currently on summer breaks from school, it is important to remember to schedule back-to school vaccines early and not wait until the end of summer,” explained Amy Kaser, RN, TCHD Director of Nursing. “We know there are concerns about adverse reactions to vaccines, and we wanted to share some data to assist those who may have questions.”

Myth #1: Vaccines cause Autism. Facts: Several studies have now identified symptoms of autism in children well before they receive the MMR vaccine. And even more research provides evidence that autism develops before the baby is born.

Myth #2: Infant immune systems cannot handle so many vaccines. Facts: Based on the number of antibodies in the baby's blood stream, the baby could handle up to 10,000 vaccines at one time. If all the 14 scheduled vaccines were to be administered at once, it would only use 0.1% of the baby's immune capacity.

Myth #3: Vaccines can infect the baby with the disease it is trying to prevent. Facts: Many parents believe the side effects from a vaccine is an adverse response when the side effects are actually the way the body begins to make the antibodies that will protect the baby. Vaccines can cause mild symptoms resembling the disease, but this is not an infection. There is only one recorded instance where a vaccine caused disease--the Oral Polio vaccine. As a result, the Oral Polio vaccine has been taken off the market.

The Tuscarawas County Health Department offers vaccines for families who have private health insurance and offers a special program for families without insurance. Thanks to grant funding from the Ohio Department of Health, the Vaccine for Children program assists in funding vaccines for those who are uninsured, underinsured, or on Medicaid. If you would like to make an appointment or would like more information about vaccines, please call TCHD at 330-343-5555 ext. 174 or 181. Learn more at the TCHD website at www.tchdnow.org.

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