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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2011

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Changes to Idaho's Immunization Rules and What It Means for Your Child *Eastern Idaho Public Health District to Hold Special Immunization Clinics for Current Sixth Grade Students*

This year, the Idaho Legislature passed some new rules governing childhood immunizations. These new rules, which went into effect April 7, 2011, affect children in childcare, and children entering kindergarten or seventh grade this fall. These groups of children will be required to have certain immunizations in order to enroll in and attend childcare or school.

"One of the biggest changes is the new immunization requirements for children entering seventh grade this fall," stated Lynne Trauntvein, RN, Immunization Coordinator at Eastern Idaho Public Health District (EIPHD). "As a convenience for parents of current sixth grade students, the health district will be holding special immunization clinics at schools specifically for sixth graders to get the new required vaccines." Most school districts in our region are participating in these special voluntary clinics. Parents should watch for more information to be sent home with their sixth grader about the clinics.

Childcare Requirements: To attend a licensed childcare facility in Idaho, a child must receive the following age appropriate immunizations:

- DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
- Polio
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Hepatitis B
- Hib (Haemophilus influenza type b)
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- Hepatitis A
- Pneumococcal
- Rotavirus

Minimum Immunization Requirements for School Entry: To enroll in or attend a public, private, or parochial school in Idaho, a child born after September 1, 2005 must receive the following immunizations:

- Five doses of DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
- Four doses of Polio
- Two doses of MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Three doses of Hepatitis B
- Two doses of Hepatitis A
- Two doses of Varicella

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There are no changes to the minimum immunization requirements for school entry for children born before September 1, 2005.

7th Grade Requirement: Effective with the 2011-2012 school year, in addition to the school entry requirements, a child must receive the following immunizations prior to admission into the seventh grade:

- One dose of Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) booster
- One dose of Meningococcal

The meningococcal booster is also a recommendation for students heading off to college.

Schedules of required immunizations for children of all ages are available at www.immunizeidaho.com

Under Idaho law, parents are allowed to claim an exemption from immunization requirements for their child for medical, religious, or philosophical reasons. All exemptions must be documented on the official State of Idaho form provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Immunization Program.

Eastern Idaho Public Health District encourages parents to contact their medical provider or the health district with any questions about these new requirements or to ensure their children are up to date with the new vaccination requirements.

To make an appointment at Eastern Idaho Public Health District for vaccinations, please call your local health district office.

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