

**Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency**

August 8, 2012

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Hot Shots!**

**Coldwater, MI.** A new school year is quickly approaching. And while malls are filling up with teens looking for fall fashion crazes and moms looking for basement bargains, remember the hottest trend this fall is good health. The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency wants to remind everyone that whether you are tall and thin or pretty and plumb, good health is within your reach. And one sure way to maintain good health is to be sure you are fully immunized.

We all need immunizations (vaccines or shots) to help protect us from serious diseases. Shots can prevent infectious diseases like measles, diphtheria, and rubella. But people in the U.S. still catch these and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Everyone age 6 months and older needs a seasonal flu shot every year. Other shots work best when they are given at certain ages. Talk to your doctor or nurse to find out which immunizations you need. The following table lists all required childhood immunizations for school attendance:

*Required Childhood Immunizations for Michigan School Settings*

Healthcare providers in Michigan should follow the 2012 Recommended Immunization Schedule  
For more information, see [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize)

Entry Requirements for All Public & Non-Public Schools		
Age → Vaccine**↓	4 years through 6 years	7 years through 18 years including all 6th grade students
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	4 doses DTP or DTaP, one dose must be on or after 4 years of age	4 doses D and T OR 3 doses Td if #1 given on or after 7 years of age. 1 dose of Tdap*** for children 11 through 18 years IF 5 years since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccine.
Polio	4 doses, if dose 3 administered on or after 4 years of age, only 3 doses are required	3 doses
Measles,* Mumps,* Rubella*	2 doses on or after 12 months of age	
Hepatitis B*	3 doses	
Meningococcal****	None	1 dose for children 11 years of age or older upon entry into 6 <sup>th</sup> grade or higher
Varicella* (Chickenpox)	2 doses of varicella vaccine at or after 12 months of age OR current lab immunity OR reliable history of disease	

\* Current laboratory evidence of immunity is acceptable instead of immunization with antigen.

\*\* All doses of vaccines must be given with appropriate spacing between doses and at appropriate ages to be considered valid.

\*\*\*Tdap is required at 11 years of age or older regardless of grade.

\*\*\*\*Meningococcal is not assessed in MICIR/SIRS if the child is 11 years of age and in a grade lower than 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency offers free vaccinations to qualifying families with children age 18 or younger through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. This program is for children who are on Medicaid. It also covers children who are not insured or whose health insurance does not cover immunizations. The department may also be able to assist adults who lack vaccine insurance coverage receive free booster shots. Please check out our website at [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org) to learn more about what shots you need to stay healthy. We also post our clinic locations and clinic schedules online for your convenience. Or feel free to call your local county office to find a time and location convenient for you.

Branch County Office: 517-279-9561

Hillsdale County Office: 517-437-7395

St. Joseph County Office: 269-273-2161

Remember, being trendy means being healthy! Stay healthy – get your shots!

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