

## News Release

### **For Immediate Release**

March 5, 2018

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### **Vaccines for Children Public Clinics Offered in March**

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) will be offering Vaccines for Children at public clinics in March.

Locations include:

**Curtis** – Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-5:30 pm at Medicine Valley High School

**Ogallala** – Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-1:30 pm at Prairie View Elementary School, Superintendent's office

**Trenton** – Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:30 pm at Hitchcock County High School library

**McCook** – daily, 8:00-4:00 pm at 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street

**Other locations:** check with your local health care provider

Anyone six months and older are invited to get their vaccinations. Walk-ins are welcome.

Persons with no insurance or under-insured may qualify for the state-funded vaccine. Call the office for qualifications at 345-4223. Both state funded and private vaccines are available at these clinics. Insurance billing and cash payment options are available to those who do not qualify for the free vaccine.

One of the many vaccinations available at these clinics is Tdap vaccine. Tdap vaccine protects against three serious diseases: tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (also called whooping cough). The Tdap vaccine takes the place of what used to be called the tetanus booster. Preteens should get Tdap at age 11 or 12. If your teen hasn't gotten a Tdap shot previously, ask their doctor or nurse about getting the shot now.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC):

**TETANUS** (Lockjaw) is rare in the United States today. It causes painful muscle tightening and stiffness, usually all over the body.

- It can lead to tightening of muscles in the head and neck so you can't open your mouth, swallow, or sometimes even breathe. Tetanus kills about 1 out of 10 people who are infected even after receiving the best medical care.

**DIPHTHERIA** is also rare in the United States today. It can cause a thick coating to form in the back of the throat.

- It can lead to breathing problems, heart failure, paralysis, and death.

**PERTUSSIS** (Whooping Cough) causes severe coughing spells, which can cause difficulty breathing, vomiting, and disturbed sleep.

- It can also lead to weight loss, incontinence, and rib fractures. Up to 2 in 100 adolescents and 5 in 100 adults with pertussis are hospitalized or have complications, which could include pneumonia or death.

These diseases are caused by bacteria. Diphtheria and pertussis are spread from person to person through secretions from coughing or sneezing. Tetanus enters the body through cuts, scratches, or wounds.

Before vaccines, as many as 200,000 cases of diphtheria, 200,000 cases of pertussis, and hundreds of cases of tetanus, were reported in the United States each year. Since vaccination began, reports of cases for tetanus and diphtheria have dropped by about 99% and for pertussis by about 80%.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties. You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter or view the website at [www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov). Call (308) 345-4223 or stop by the office at 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street in McCook.

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