### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Contact: Shannon Lands, PIO (419) 213-4143 May 25, 2016

### Health Department Recommends Students Receive Back-to-School Shots Early, Avoid Extended Wait Times

New school immunization requirements for 7th and 12th graders could make back-to-school season busier than ever for parents, doctors, and the Shots 4 Tots n Teens staff at the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department. Parents are urged to make sure that their child’s immunizations are up-to-date before the start of the new school year.

**New for the 2016/2017 school year, Ohio Law requires:**

* 7th graders must have 1 dose of Tdap and 1 dose of meningitis vaccine
* 12th graders must have a booster dose of meningitis vaccine (unless the first dose is given after the student’s 16th birthday)

According to David Grossman, MD, Health Commissioner, Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, “Although it’s rare, meningitis can be fatal. Protecting our children and community is at the heart of the new requirements for 7th and 12th graders.” Prevention of meningococcal disease is critical because it can be mistaken for flu or other viral infections and adolescents and young adults are among those at greatest risk for the disease.

Vaccinations during the teen years helps provide protection against vaccine preventable diseases through adulthood. In addition to the meningitis vaccine, 7th graders are required to receive a Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis) vaccine. Parents are encouraged to make a well child appointment with their child’s doctor.

Vaccinations are available through the Shots 4 Tots n Teens immunization clinics for children from birth through 18 years at locations throughout Lucas County. Parents are reminded to bring their child’s shot record and insurance card. Details are available at lucascountyhealth.com or by calling 419-213-4121.

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David Grossman, MD

Health Commissioner

LUCAS COUNTY

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Visit us on the web at:

www.lucascountyhealth.com

Main Office

635 North Erie Street

Toledo, Ohio 43604-5317

419.213.4100

419.213.4017 Fax

boardofhealth@co.lucas.oh.us

Western Clinic Site

330 Oak Terrace Boulevard

Holland, Ohio 43528-8993

419.213.6255

419.213.6266 Fax