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Karim Baroudi, MPH, REHS  
 Health Commissioner

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Health Department Reminds Parents and Caregivers of the Importance of Back-to-School Vaccinations**

As students across the county hit the books once again, health officials and educators are emphasizing the importance of vaccinations to ensure a safe and healthy school year. The Health Department along with the local school districts aim to avoid exclusion of any student due to lack of vaccinations. The *Shots 4 Tots n Teens* clinic can provide vaccinations for children from birth to 18 years old.

Vaccinations build immunity against many infectious diseases by teaching the body to recognize and combat preventable illnesses. Specific vaccine requirements are mandated for those entering Kindergarten, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. The *Shots 4 Tots n Teens* team accepts walk-ins and appointments. Immunizations available:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR)
- Polio
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal (7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades)

Students entering college should check with health services/admissions at their campus regarding immunization requirements.

“Back to school vaccinations help protect our children and families from the spread of infectious diseases,” said Health Commissioner, Karim Baroudi, “I encourage parents to review their child’s immunization records along with school requirements and obtain those needed immunizations soon.”

For a child to receive services, the following items must be provided:

- Child’s Paper Shot Record
- Child’s Insurance Card (if any)
- Parent’s ID

All insurance plans are accepted. A fee of \$21.25 per shot is charged for those without insurance; however, no child will be turned away due to inability to pay. For additional information, please call 419-213-4121 or visit [www.lucascountyhealth.com](http://www.lucascountyhealth.com) for a complete list of all upcoming vaccination clinics.

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