



NEWS RELEASE Mobile County Health Department

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251 N. Bayou St.
P.O. Box 2867
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www.MobileCountyHealth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mobile County Health Department advising parents and caregivers of new vaccination requirements

The Mobile County Health Department is advising parents and caregivers that beginning with the upcoming school year, a Tdap vaccination will be required for students aged 11 years or older entering the sixth grade. Also, effectively immediately, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (also called PCV) is required for children attending child care and home day care centers. It is recommended that PCV be administered to all children ages 2 months to 59 months. The vaccine should be given routinely at ages 2, 4, 6 months, and at 12 months through 15 months of age. This vaccine also may be given to children 60 months to 71 months of age in certain high-risk groups.

Tdap protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, also known as whooping cough. PCV helps prevent invasive diseases including bloodstream infections and meningitis.

Children in Alabama who are going to attend day cares, Head Start programs, or public or private schools must have an Immunization Card, also called a blue card, showing that their immunizations are up-to-date.

“Preparing for an upcoming school year can be hectic and stressful for families,” Dr. Bernard Eichold, county health officer, says. “Taking measures now to make sure kids get a healthy, safe start should make for a smoother school year.”

Vaccinations are available Mondays through Thursday in downtown Mobile at 251 North Bayou St. from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All required or recommended vaccinations are free or low-cost based on eligibility, and appointments are not required. Parents and caregivers must bring their children’s immunizations records, Social Security cards, and Medicaid cards or other insurance verification.

Immunizations by appointment are available at the following Health Department locations:

- Saturday Clinic, 251 N. Bayou St.
- Newburn Clinic, 248 Cox St.
- School-Based Clinic, 800 Whitley St. (Mobile County Training School)
- Eight Mile Clinic, 4547 St. Stephens Rd.
- Semmes Clinic, 3810 Wulff Rd. E.
- Mt. Vernon Clinic, 19180 Shepard Lake Rd.
- Calcedaveer Clinic, 1080AA Reservation Rd.

To schedule an appointment, call 690-8889.

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Students who are not changing schools this year should already have their cards on file at the school. Students entering in the ninth grade, however, must have a new blue card to register for school. The state does not recognize exemptions from vaccinations based on philosophical, moral, or ethical reasons. However, exemption from vaccination may be issued by a physician based on medical reasons. A Certificate of Religious Exemption can be obtained from the Health Department.

College vaccination requirements are specified by individual institutions. There are no state-regulated vaccination requirements for college students. They are specified by the individual institutions. However, it is recommended that college students be up to date with all childhood vaccinations. It is also recommended that students who will be living in dormitories get a meningococcal vaccination.

For more information, call 690-8821.

