

Special Edition: Child Health Notes

Promoting early identification and partnerships between families, primary health care providers & the community.

Distributed by the Lewis County Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) and Parent to Parent. **Contributors:**
Washington Department of Health and the University of Washington Children with Special Health Care Needs.



"Children can easily pick up infections from those around them. We have a responsibility not only to ourselves but to everyone around us to get recommended vaccinations."

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In the News: Measles are on the Rise

Measles outbreaks in several states have led to more than 80 cases so far this year and health officials expect the numbers to keep climbing. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed 64 cases in the first four months of this year. There are no deaths so far, but 14 people were hospitalized, a CDC spokesman said.

That count does not include Washington state, where eight cases were reported in April. By May, the number more than doubled—20 cases in our state alone.

Measles is caused by a virus that normally grows in cells that line the back of the throat and line the lungs. It spreads through contact with a sneezing, coughing, infected person. Symptoms include rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes. But about 1 in 5 measles sufferers experience more severe illness that can include diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia, encephalitis and even seizures and death.

Of the 64 cases reported to the CDC, 63 were unvaccinated or it wasn't known if they were vaccinated. At least 54 of the cases stemmed from outbreaks in other countries.

Thirteen of the U.S. cases were children younger than one-year-old; children usually don't get their first measles shot until they're at least one because their immune systems are considered too immature to produce the needed response.

Do childhood vaccinations cause developmental disabilities such as Autism? "Babies also get their first teeth after they get their first vaccines, but that doesn't mean one causes the other," states a TIME Magazine article in the June 2, 2008 issue.

In 2001 Thimerosal was removed from vaccines but cases of Autism continue to climb. This trend suggests other factors, including heightened awareness of Autism, genetic abnormalities and/or environmental exposures are behind the climbing rates.

It may be easier for children and teens with special health care needs and/or those with a weakened immune system due to a chronic illness, to contract a vaccine-preventable disease, and if they get a disease, it may be more severe. They may be more susceptible to such diseases and may need immunizations not typically recommended for all adolescents. If your child cannot receive a vaccination due to his/her medical condition, make sure that members of the household and others close to him or her are immunized.

Parents of unimmunized kids believe that as long as nearly all other children get their shots, there should not be enough pathogen around to sicken anyone, but that's a fragile shield. Infectious-disease bugs continue to travel and ready to launch the next biggest public health threat.

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What you need to know:

Immunizing all babies born in the U.S. in any given year prevents 14 million infections and saves 33,000 lives and \$10 billion in medical costs.

Do vaccines cause Autism? The best scientific evidence say no. Experts are instead focusing on genetic and environmental factors. **Will your child react badly to immunizations?** The majority of children do not. Advances in genetic screening may help doctors identify the few who might.

Here is an example of what can happen if your child is not immunized: In 2000, the country of Nigeria reported less than 30 cases of Polio. In 2001, religious and political leaders convinced parents that polio vaccines were dangerous. Since then, there have been 888 cases of polio in Nigeria — which causes paralysis and death — and the disease has spread to neighboring countries. *TIME Magazine, June 2, 2008*

The risk of getting a serious or fatal disease is greater than the risk of a bad reaction from a vaccine. To prevent further spread of this dangerous and potentially fatal disease, the Center for Disease Control urges you to get your child vaccinated today.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

Contact the Lewis County Health Department or your Pediatrician 740-1223
www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMap.htm

WA State Dept. of Health Immunization Program
CHILD Profile www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize

www.childprofile.org

CDC National Immunization Program
Society for Adolescent Medicine www.cdc.gov/nip
www.adolescenthealth.org

Provider Resources: Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization Practices

www.cdc.gov/nip/recs/rev-immz-stds.htm#child

Helping Parents Who Question Vaccines: Providers' Guide

www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/flyers/f_parents_questvax_hcp.pdf

Adolescent Immunization Recommendations

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4513.pdf

Washington State Lifetime Immunization Record

www3.doh.wa.gov/here/materials/CRA_Detail.aspx?ID=278

LOCAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

For children under age three:

Living in any Lewis County School District
Living in Centralia Chehalis School Districts only

Contact:

In-Tot Developmental Center 748-4359 or 1-888-548-4359
Growing Together 748-2277 or Student Support 807-7245

For children age three and older:

Within Centralia Chehalis School Districts
Outside Centralia Chehalis School Districts

Contact:

Local school district
Lewis County Special Education Coop 748-3384 or local elementary school