

JULY 26, 2023

# MCHD HEALTH BLOG

*The greatest wealth of a community is the health of the people.*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.



## IMPORTANCE OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

As we head into National Immunization Awareness month this week, we would like to once again remind everyone of the importance of staying up to date on recommended vaccines for the children in your life. These vaccines help protect your child and your community. The U. S. Department of Health & Human Services shares these important reasons to vaccinate your child:

- Vaccinations can save your child's life. Getting immunized protects against many diseases. For instance, now that we have the Polio vaccine no cases have been reported in the U. S. This disease used to cause death or paralysis. Thankfully, this shot is available for all children in the United States.
- Vaccines are safe and effective. Vaccine studies completed by scientists and doctors show that there are few serious side effects once you receive a shot. It is important to know that the benefits of receiving a vaccine outweighs the few side effects that your child may experience.
- Immunizations help protect your loved ones. When your child is fully immunized, such as with the whooping cough vaccine, it prevents them from spreading the infection. This helps keep grandma and grandpa, as well as other loved ones safe.
- Getting immunized now saves time and money. Some vaccines are required for school entry. Delaying these vaccines could prevent your children from attending school. Also, getting your child immunized can prevent disabilities because immunizations prevent disease in children. Vaccines are a good investment and are covered by most insurances or through the VFC program. Disease prevention is key to having healthy children, families, and communities.
- Getting immunized protects future generations. Over the years vaccines have reduced or completely eliminated serious disease that cause death. An example of this would be smallpox, as it no longer exists. If we continue to let our children receive immunizations, we can hope that some of the diseases of today will no longer be around and harm children in coming years.

No insurance or no coverage for shots? No problem. Thanks to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, you may be able to get them for free. Reach out to our office at (740) 962-4572 during business hours with any questions you may have or to schedule an appointment. Our nurse will also be out and about several times in the next few weeks to answer your vaccine questions. You can chat with her at the 8/3 Morgan County Farmer's Market from 12-1pm, 8/5 Back 2 School Bash at the McConnelssville Commons 11-1pm and 8/14 Morgan Junior High Open House 6-7:30pm.