



# Cowlitz County Health Department

County Health Department  
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## News Release

For Immediate Release on July 27, 2009  
Longview, WA 98632

### Changes in Vaccines for Children at the Health Department

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Recent changes in the State budget have limited the availability of vaccines for children at the local health departments. As of July 1, 2009, the State of Washington will no longer provide HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine for children whose private insurance covers vaccinations. Effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, Cowlitz County Health Department will no longer provide any childhood vaccinations for children whose private insurance covers vaccinations.

"It is an unfortunate that funding will not be available to support vaccination of all children, regardless of insurance status, in Cowlitz County. We are focusing our efforts on immunizing those children who do not have private insurance or whose private insurance does not cover vaccinations, in order to best utilize our limited resources." states Stacey Gregory, RN, Immunization Program Coordinator for the Cowlitz County Health Department.

Children without insurance, children with insurance that does not cover vaccinations, children on Medicaid, and all children of Native American or Alaskan Native descent will have access to all recommended vaccinations at the Health Department's Tuesday Immunization Clinic from 3:00-5:30 pm. The standard administration fee is \$5.50 per vaccination for those without Medicaid. Low income waivers are available for the administration fee.

"We encourage all children to receive the recommended immunizations. The consequences of disease are often devastating to children and families who fail to vaccinate their children. Vaccines have made a life-saving difference for children and families." explains Dr. Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH, Deputy Health Officer for Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Clark and Skamania Counties.

The back to school season is upon us. Parents whose children have a primary care provider, should call and make an appointment with them to receive their vaccinations as soon as possible. It is important that parents get their children in early to their primary care providers to receive their immunizations to avoid long waits at the clinics.

For more information, please contact the Cowlitz County Health Department at 414-5599 M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

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