



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Department of Health encourages parents to schedule back-to-school vaccination and physical examination appointments now

HONOLULU – With the easing of COVID-19 “Safer at Home” restrictions, it is more important than ever to ensure every child’s immunizations and physical examination are up to date. Avoiding check-ups and missing vaccines can put a child at risk for preventable diseases such as measles and whooping cough and could delay a child’s return to school if health requirements are not met. Healthcare provider offices are open and measures are in place to ensure every child’s safety. Parents are urged to call their child’s healthcare provider today to schedule an appointment and discuss any concerns.

“School Health Requirements protect not only the health of our students but their families and our communities as well,” said Health Director Bruce Anderson. “In light of the current pandemic, it is critically important to ensure our keiki are immunized, to protect them against diseases that can be prevented with vaccines.”

All students entering schools and child care facilities in Hawai‘i for the first time must meet the state’s immunization, physical exam, and tuberculosis screening requirements. In addition, before the first day of school, all seventh-grade students must provide documentation of having received a physical examination and the following vaccinations:

- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis vaccine)
- HPV (human papillomavirus vaccine)
- MCV (meningococcal conjugate vaccine)

Immunizations are also required for students attending colleges and universities in Hawai‘i.

Parents whose children are behind on their immunizations and physical exams are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible. To help ensure students are healthy, protected from serious diseases, and are ready to return to school, adults are urged to call today – don’t delay.

For more information about Hawai‘i school health requirements, visit [vaxtoschoolhawaii.com](http://vaxtoschoolhawaii.com) or <https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/vaccines-immunizations/school-health-requirements/sy-20-21/>

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