



# Yakima Health District

## News Release

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### **Be Wise and Immunize Your Child Before School Starts**

The Yakima Health District (YHD) is reminding parents and guardians to make sure their kids' immunizations are up to date before going back to school next month. Vaccines give parents the power to protect their children from serious diseases. One of the most important things a parent can do to protect their child's health is getting their child vaccinated according to the recommended immunization schedule.

Unvaccinated children are not only at increased risk for disease, but they can also spread disease to others in their play groups, child care centers, classroom, and communities – including babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated and people who might not be able to receive certain vaccines due to cancer or other health conditions.

YHD encourages parents and guardians to check with their providers to make sure that their families are up to date on all necessary immunizations. Young children, preteens, and teens all need vaccines to stay healthy throughout the school year. You can access a [list of all required vaccinations](#) at the Washington State Department of Health website in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of vaccines. However, if you don't have insurance, or it does not cover vaccines, the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program may be able to help. The VFC program provides vaccines for all in Washington State children 18 years and under.

Contact your provider to see if they participate in the VFC program. You can also check the Yakima Health District [website](#) for a list of participating providers in Yakima County.

**For more information:**

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Washington State Department of Health- Vaccination schedules in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

[Washington My IR](#)

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