



Immunization Waiver Update

Parents or guardians seeking an immunization waiver are required to obtain the waiver from the **Health Department of Northwest Michigan**. They will have an opportunity to discuss immunizations with county Health Department staff; they will also receive information on the benefits of vaccination and the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan and your school district work together to encourage parents and guardians to ensure children receive all recommended vaccinations. Students may be denied enrollment by the school

district if vaccinations are not up to date, and/or a waiver has not been obtained from the Health Department.

To make an appointment with the Health Department, please call:

1-800-432-4121

Effective January 1, 2015, the State of Michigan requires non-medical waivers for children in school and child care programs to be processed through the local Health Department. This applies to:

- Licensed child care, pre-school and Head Start programs.
- Students in Kindergarten and 7th grade, and any student newly enrolled in the school district.

Michigan has one of the highest waiver rates in the country. This leaves communities vulnerable to diseases such as measles, chickenpox, and pertussis (whooping cough). Immunizations are one of the most effective ways to protect children from harmful diseases and even death.

To make an appointment:

- Call 1-800-432-4121.
- Request a waiver education appointment for child(ren).
- Parent/guardian and child(ren) must be present for appointment.

What to expect:

- The appointment will take 15-30 minutes.
- The nurse will review all recommended vaccines.
- The parent/guardian will have an opportunity to discuss concerns and ask questions.
- The nurse will provide recommended vaccines, with parent/guardian approval, or will complete waiver form.
- If a waiver is issued, the parent/guardian will be given the original waiver form to take to school.

The Health Department is committed to providing parents/guardians with vaccination facts and resources that can help to address any concerns they may have. For immunization schedules and other information, visit:

nwhealth.org