



## Washtenaw County Health Department

### For Immediate Release

Contact: Beth Ann Hamilton, MS  
Communications Coordinator  
Washtenaw County Health Department  
[hamiltone@washtenaw.org](mailto:hamiltone@washtenaw.org)  
734-294-4301

### Catch Up Washtenaw: Don't Wait, Vaccinate!

*Washtenaw County Health Department offers back-to-school vaccination events*

YPSILANTI, Mich., Aug 4, 2023 – Vaccination rates among local kids have fallen. This leaves children and our community at risk for preventable diseases and outbreaks. Washtenaw County Health Department is offering two vaccination events to catch kids up before they start school, preschool or daycare. Recommended vaccinations must be completed (or waived) before school registration.

Call 734-544-6700 to schedule for Tues, August 8 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm or Tues, August 15 from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm. Spanish and French interpreters will be available for appointments after 4:00 pm on August 15. Telephone interpretation for multiple language is always available. Health Department [clinical services](#) are located at 555 Towner Steet in Ypsilanti.

“As the school year approaches, it may be hard to get a timely vaccination appointment,” says Jane Nickert, RN, nursing director at Washtenaw County Health Department. “We want to make sure as many kids as possible are up to date on their vaccines and ready to start school or childcare.”

Vaccination is also widely available with area health care providers or pharmacies. Families with a regular health care provider or pediatrician can schedule with their doctor.

The Health Department accepts Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Individuals are not refused services if unable to pay.

#### Transportation

If transportation is needed to the Health Department or another vaccination location, the [Vaccinate Washtenaw](#) program provides free rides to medical appointments that include vaccination. Call 844-900-4892 and use the code "Vaccinate Washtenaw."

**Catch Up  
WASHTENAW**

Local kids are behind on their routine vaccines & they may get or spread serious illnesses.  
**Don't wait, vaccinate!**

time to catch up!

**SPECIAL NEEDS OR CONDITIONS?**  
Vaccination is even more important for your child. Talk to their specialists and get your questions answered.

**Avoid school registration delays!**  
Call your doctor to schedule or call us at 734-544-6700.

Washtenaw County Health Department

Washtenaw County Health Department  
555 Towner Street • Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
Phone: 734-544-6700 • Fax: 734-544-6705  
[washtenaw.org/health](http://washtenaw.org/health)



Environmental Health Division  
705 N Zeeb Road • Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
Phone: 734-222-3800 • Fax: 734-222-3930  
[washtenaw.org/envhealth](http://washtenaw.org/envhealth)

## **Vaccination Rates**

In Michigan, the number of toddlers current on their vaccinations has fallen by about 5% in the last two years, which leaves roughly 52,000 children vulnerable to vaccine-preventable illnesses like mumps, measles, chicken pox, polio, and diphtheria.

In Washtenaw, the percentage of [toddlers](#) (19-35 months) current on their recommended vaccinations has dropped about 4% from 2019-2022. Among [adolescents](#) 13-19 years in Washtenaw, coverage is down 9%.

“High rates of vaccination protect everyone,” says Jane Nickert, RN. “We don’t want to see young children or their families seriously ill with anything a vaccine can prevent or make less severe.”

Consistent community support for routine vaccination is critical – perhaps more than ever. Take time to encourage vaccination and make sure everyone in Washtenaw catches up as soon as possible. This is especially important when families have doubts about the recommended schedules, the importance of catching up, or vaccinating kids with special health conditions.

The Health Department has a Catch Up Washtenaw [flyer](#) available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Pashto, and Dari and stickers in English, Spanish, and Arabic. Print or email us at [health@washtenaw.org](mailto:health@washtenaw.org) if you can use printed copies or stickers.

## **Washtenaw County Health Department**

The Washtenaw County Health Department promotes health and works to prevent disease and injury in our community. Our mission is to assure, in partnership with the community, the conditions necessary for people to live healthy lives through prevention and protection programs.

Local public health information and updates are always available at [www.washtenaw.org/health](http://www.washtenaw.org/health). The Health Department also provides frequent social media updates (@wcpublichealth) and sends regular email updates, sign up at <http://bit.ly/WCHD555>.