

# The Healthcare Consortium

## For Your Health

### **“Get Your Students Ready for School with Vaccinations”**

*Sydney Keiler, Director of Development and Communications*

August is National Immunization Awareness Month! With school starting in a few weeks, now is the perfect time to check in on your child’s vaccination records and make sure they are ready for the new year.

Vaccines work by training our immune systems to recognize and fight off certain germs and illnesses. Most provide lifelong protection, sometimes with a booster along the way, which is why childhood vaccinations are so important. They protect our children now, when they are most vulnerable to illness, and throughout their lifetime.

Every vaccine goes through years of careful research, followed by extensive testing with tens of thousands of volunteers, before it’s approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Thanks to this process, we now have vaccines to prevent more than 30 serious diseases. In fact, the World Health Organization estimates that vaccines save 3.5 to 5 million lives every year from illnesses like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), influenza, and measles.

Making sure your child is up to date on their vaccines not only prepares them for school, it also plays an important role in keeping everyone around them safe. Vaccines don’t just protect the student who receives them—they also help stop the spread of contagious diseases in classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and on the playground. When most children in a community are vaccinated, it creates what’s called *herd immunity*, which makes it much harder for illnesses to spread and protects those who can’t be vaccinated due to age or certain medical conditions.

According to the New York State Department of Health, the following vaccines are required for school attendance:

For day care, pre-K, and school attendance:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP or Tdap)
- Hepatitis B
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Polio
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

Additional vaccines required for middle school and high school:

- 1 dose of Tdap for Grades 6–12
- 1 dose of Meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY) for Grades 7–12
- Students in Grade 12 need an additional MenACWY booster on or after their 16th birthday

Both the Columbia County Department of Health and the Greene County Department of Health offer vaccination clinic days:

- Columbia County Department of Health: Immunization clinics are held every Tuesday by appointment only, from 1–4 PM, and on select Tuesdays from 4–6 PM, at 325 Columbia St, Suite 100, Hudson, NY 12534. Routine child, adolescent, and adult immunizations are available. They accept most insurance plans. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 518-828-3358.
- Greene County Department of Health: Immunizations are available by appointment. Please call 518-719-3600 to schedule.

By keeping your child's vaccinations current, you're helping to safeguard their health, protect their classmates and teachers, and support the wellbeing of the broader community.

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*The Healthcare Consortium is a non-profit organization with a mission of improving access to healthcare and supporting the health and well-being of the residents in our rural community. The agency is located at 325 Columbia St. in Hudson. For more information: visit [www.columbiahealthnet.org](http://www.columbiahealthnet.org) or call 518-822-8820.*