



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Vaccination Rates Increase Among School Children

(Woodland, CA) – New data from the California Department of Public Health shows that vaccination rates among Yolo County school children increased in the 2016-17 school year. The data indicates that immunization rates among school children have exceeded the 95% threshold that is required to prevent outbreaks and the spread of communicable diseases for the first time in many years. Immunizing children protects them from a number of childhood diseases such as mumps, measles and whooping cough, many of which can cause more serious illness and death in the very young.

According to the Shots for Schools website (www.shotsforschool.org), 2016-17 school year data illustrates a 5.3% increase in the vaccination rate of Yolo County kindergarteners (from 91.7% to 96.6%) and a 4.6% increase in the vaccination rate of Yolo County preschoolers (from 90.5% to 95.1%). These increases mark a significant improvement from the previous five years where rates consistently fell below the 95% threshold needed to ensure community immunity.

Yolo County largely attributes the improved vaccination rates to new state law enacted in 2016 following the passage of Senate Bill 277. The law requires that all California school children be vaccinated unless they receive a medical exemption from a physician. Prior to the passage of Senate Bill 277, parents were able to opt out of vaccinating their children if it was against their religious or personal preferences.

“The new law has helped ensure that children catch up on immunizations and are protected from what used to be debilitating childhood diseases,” said Yolo County Health Officer Dr. Ron Chapman. “However, it is not just Senate Bill 277. Yolo County has also done tremendous work at the local level to raise awareness about the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases and the benefits of immunization.”

Children are best served when they receive vaccines as part of a routine well-child visit from a primary care provider. The Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency can help families find a doctor or clinic nearby that offers vaccines. Children that have no health insurance to pay for their immunizations or who are on Medi-Cal may be eligible to receive shots at the Yolo County Immunization Clinic. The clinic schedule can be found at www.yolocounty.org/immunizations or by calling (530) 666-8562.

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