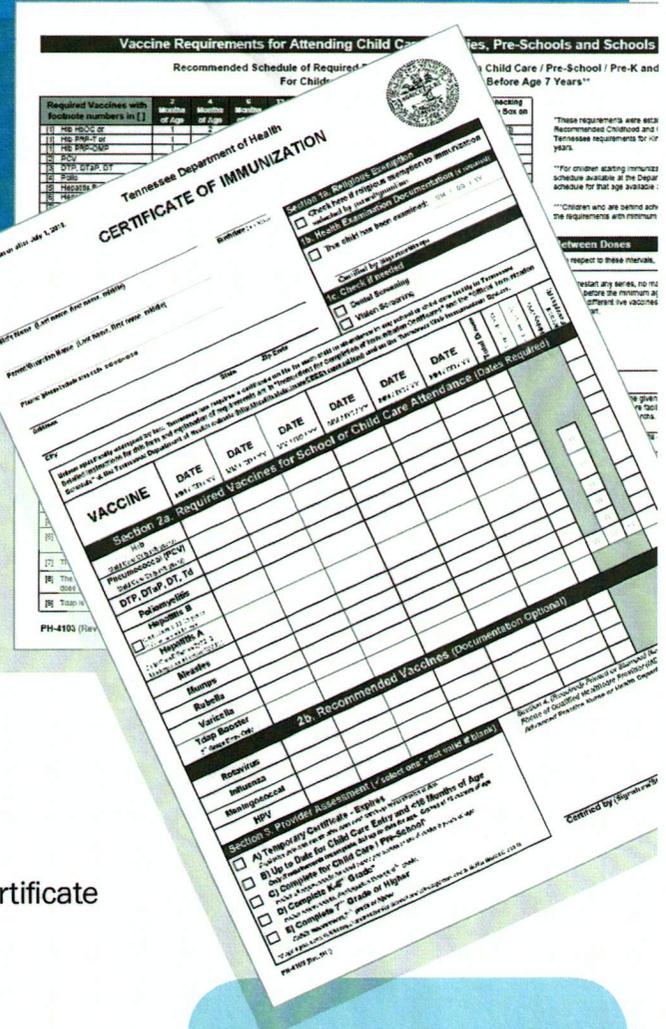


Is your child ready for middle school?



State-required vaccinations

Vaccinations are an important part of keeping your child healthy, and they continue throughout childhood. Middle school-aged children should receive a Tdap vaccination, approved for those 11 years and older. In addition, students should have already had two doses of the varicella vaccine. A certificate of immunization for both of these vaccinations is required prior to entering 7th grade. But you don't have to wait a year.

Have your child vaccinated now, so you don't become part of the August crowds at doctors' offices.

Where: You may get the vaccines and the immunization certificate from your pediatrician or the Knox County Health Department, 865-215-5150.

Questions: For more information about the school immunization policy, call 865-594-1800.

To find out if your child has proof of the required vaccines, contact the medical office or clinic where your child receives vaccinations.

Tdap provides protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). The varicella vaccine provides protection from chickenpox.

Please note that the varicella vaccine is **not** required if your child has had chickenpox. In this case, you must provide the year your child had chickenpox to the pediatrician or health department staff who will be issuing the new immunization certificate.

Be sure to beat the rush!

Last year, hundreds of parents and students waited until the first day of school to get vaccinations. Those coming to the health department waited in very long lines, and in fact, many had to return the next day.

