



# Northwest Medical Center

A Tradition of Community Healthcare

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Send Your Kids Back to School with their Vaccines Up to Date

*National Immunization Awareness Month is a reminder that we all need vaccines throughout our lives.*

**Albany, MO – July 31, 2014** - Back-to-school season is here and it's time to start gathering supplies and back packs. It's also the perfect time to make sure children are up to date on their vaccines.

To celebrate the importance of immunizations throughout life – and make sure children are protected with all the vaccines they need – Northwest Medical Center is proudly participating in National Immunization Awareness Month.

“Getting children all of the vaccines recommended by CDC’s immunization schedule is one of the most important things parents can do to protect their children’s health,” said Vicki Hogue, Clinic Operations Director at Northwest Medical Center. “If you haven’t done so already, now is the time to check with your doctor to find out what vaccines your child needs.”

Most schools require children to be current on vaccinations before enrolling to protect the health of all students.

Today’s childhood vaccines protect against serious and potentially life-threatening diseases, including polio, measles, whooping cough and chickenpox.

When children are not vaccinated, they are at increased risk and can spread diseases to others in their classrooms and community – including babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated, and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer and other health conditions.

School age children need vaccines. For example, children who are 4 to 6 years old are due for boosters of four vaccines: DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis), chickenpox, MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and polio. Older children, like preteens and teens, need Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), MCV (meningococcal conjugate vaccine) and HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccines when they are 11 or 12. In addition, yearly flu vaccines are recommended for all children 6 months and older.

To schedule an appointment for immunizations, please call a Northwest Medical Center provider clinic or for after-hours support with appointment scheduling, please call (660) 822-1420. NMC provider clinics include: Albany Clinic East (660) 726-3333 or (660) 726-3974; Albany Clinic West (660) 726-3311; Grant City Clinic (660) 564-3322; Stanberry Rural Health Clinic (660) 783-2192; or New Hampton Rural Health Clinic (660) 439-2060.



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Parents can find out more about the recommended immunization schedule at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html).

**About-** Northwest Medical Center has provided high-quality health services to residents in Northwest Missouri since 1957. Along with four satellite clinics and a full-service home-health agency, Northwest Medical Center continues its tradition of community healthcare utilizing leading-edge diagnostic equipment and boasting one of the top emergency room facilities in the region.

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