FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Offers Required Immunizations For School Children

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health offers all vaccines for school readiness as well as physicals for children entering kindergarten.

The vaccines are offered at the Immunization Clinic during regular clinic hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Evening clinic hours are also available on Tuesdays until 6:30 p.m. Patients can come into the Immunization Clinic on a walk-in basis; no appointment is necessary.

Physicals for children entering kindergarten are offered by appointment in the Child Health Clinic. Call 910-433-3600. The Health Department is at 1235 Ramsey St.

The Health Department reminds parents of the required immunizations for kindergarteners and seventh-graders. By law, students who have not received their required shots by the deadline dates may not return to school until they comply with state immunization requirements.

Aug. 11 is the last day for year-round kindergarten and seventh-graders to attend school without the required shots. **Sept. 23** is the last day for students in the traditional calendar schools.

"Time is running out for those children attending year-round schools to get their required shots for entry into kindergarten and seventh grade," said Pamela James, School Health and Immunizations Supervisor. "We want to remind parents not to let their children miss school because of missed deadlines for required shots."

Required vaccines for kindergarten include: DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis); Polio, MMR (measles, mumps and rubella); Hepatitis B and Varicella (chicken pox). Kindergarten students are now required to have a second Varicella shot before school starts.

Seventh graders are required to have the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine and the Meningitis vaccine. Gardasil, and Hepatitis A shots are recommended.

For vaccine prices or information about eligibility for the Vaccines for Children program, call 910-433-3633. Medicaid, North Carolina Health Choice and Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance are filed.

If you would like more information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health's programs and services, health-related data, or community resources, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk, or visit our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.