



Lewis County Public Health & Social Services

News Release

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For more information contact:

J.P. Anderson, 360-740-2787

Lewis County Child Immunization Rates Falling

Chehalis, WA – 2019 immunization rates among Lewis County 5-year-olds entering school for four required vaccinations have fallen compared to 2018. In addition, these four immunization levels have dropped below the state average after being slightly greater in 2018.

The four immunizations include DTaP, polio, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR), and varicella. According to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), 91 percent of 5-year-olds across Washington had met all immunizations required by state law by the start of kindergarten. The Lewis County rates were 93 percent overall, but below in the four listed.

DTaP	81%
Polio	81%
MMR.....	84%
Varicella.....	82%

Among Lewis County sixth graders, only 88 percent have received their Tdap vaccine required by law. This is close to the statewide average according to DOH data.

Immunization recommendations and schedules change because new vaccines come out that can prevent more diseases than in the past. Keep up with the most current information from your primary care provider or online. The DOH website has a section dedicated to immunization information at:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization>.

If you are not sure about the immunization status for your children, DOH offers “MyIR” online. This free service lets you view, download, and print your family’s immunization information. You can manage your family’s records securely, access them at any time, and print “Certificate of Immunization

Status” documents as needed. Go to <https://wa.myir.net/register> to sign up. You may also request complete immunization records from your primary care provider.

Immunization protects your children and family from serious, and sometimes deadly, diseases. There is no charge for vaccines for children aged 0-18 years in Washington. There may be a small charge for getting the shot and for the office visit, but you will not be charged for the vaccine itself. Also, clinics that get their vaccines from the state cannot deny your child a shot because you cannot pay.

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