



Back to School To Do's: Immunizations, Lead Tests & Dental Screenings

Health plays a large role in helping your child succeed in school. As you prepare your child for the school year, don't forget to add immunizations, blood lead testing, and dental screening to your "Back to School To Do" list along with the pencils, backpack, and notebooks.

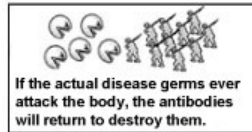
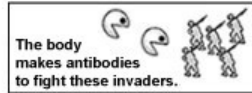
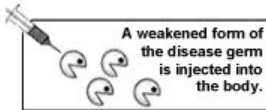
Immunizations

Immunizations are an important step in protecting your child, your family, and your community against serious and sometimes deadly diseases. **Some immunizations are required for school attendance and some are recommended for your child.**

You may already know that immunizations are important, but do you know how they work? Here is how:

When germs such as bacteria or viruses invade the body, the body's immune system has to fight the infection. Once it fights off the infection, the body is left with a supply of cells that helps recognize and fight that disease in the future.

Immunizations help develop immunity by pretending to be an infection, but this pretend infection does not cause illness. Instead, it causes the immune system to develop the same response as it does to a real infection so the body



can recognize and fight the vaccine preventable disease in the future. This illustration explains how an immunization works.

For more information on which immunizations your child might need, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/parents-guide/downloads/parents-guide-part3.pdf>

Blood Lead Test

Lead is a metal that was used for many years in products in and around our homes and is dangerous to the human body. More than 60% of Iowa's housing was built before 1960 and may have lead-based paint in it. Young children are most at risk to the dangerous effects of lead, including learning problems, damage to the brain, kidneys and nervous system, and even death. Unfortunately, 1 in 14 Iowa children is lead-poisoned, a number that is four times higher than the national average.

The best way to protect your child is by having your child's blood tested for

lead. Children should have their blood tested at least once a year until they are 6 years old to continue to make sure they do not come into contact with lead as they become more active.

All Iowa children must have proof of a blood lead test before starting kindergarten. Talk with your child's doctor or the Scott County Health Department about scheduling a blood lead test before your child begins kindergarten.

Dental Screening

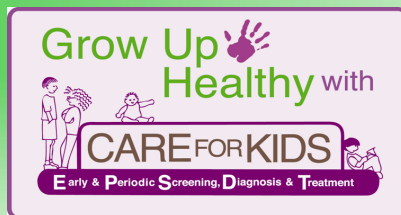
How do you know kids are ready for school? Check their smiles! Healthy teeth means healthy kids! **Kindergarten and ninth grade students must bring a certificate of dental screening to school. It's required.** Call the I-Smile™ coordinator if you need help with dental care.



For help with finding a doctor or dentist, read about the programs below.

>> Need help finding a doctor? Dentist? We can help!

Care for Kids is a program that helps children and families access preventative health care by helping them find doctors, dentists and vision providers, helping families make health care appointments, helping remove barriers to accessing care, and giving families information about community programs, including how to contact them.



Give **Care for Kids** a call if they can help you!
Call: (563) 328-4114

The **I-Smile™** program helps connect children with dental care. I-Smile™ connects families to dentists, educates families on the benefits of regular dental care, and helps families find dental coverage and discounts.



Give **I-Smile™** a call for more information!
Call: (563) 326-8645

Check out these Resources!

Want to learn more about the topics discussed in this newsletter? Get more information by following these links.

- Immunization schedules for children birth to age 18: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html>
- Lead Poisoning: http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/lead_info.php
- Scott County's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program: <http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/lead.php>
- Dental Screenings: <http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/ismile.php?page=screening>
- Scott County I-Smile™: <http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/ismile.php>
- Scott County Care for Kids: <http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/careforkids.php>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom, 12:00 PM
Thursday, August 28, 2014.

OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department is committed to promoting, protecting and preserving the health of the community by providing leadership and direction as advocates for the individual, the family, the community and the environment we serve.

OUR VISION:

As recognized and respected leaders in serving and protecting our citizens, we at the Scott County Health Department are committed to a safer, healthier community and environment. In so doing, we provide a multitude of services with Professionalism, Responsiveness, Involvement, Dedication, and Excellence.

SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Scott County Administrative Center, 4th Floor

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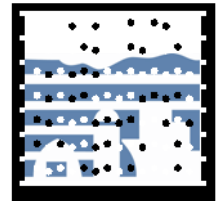
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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.