

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



Vaccinate for a Healthy Life

August is *National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)*. As summer ends, it is time to check immunization records and make sure everyone is ready for another healthy year. While vaccines are often required by schools, colleges, and workplaces, we do not always talk about *why* they are important. Have you ever thought about how vaccines work?

The Science Behind Immunity

Our bodies are specially designed to identify germs that make us sick and put up a fight. The first time the body encounters a germ, it can take several days to make and deploy all the germ-fighting tools need to get over the sickness. Once the infection is over, the body remembers what it learned and can quickly call those germ-fighting tools back into action if it needed.

Vaccines help develop the body's immunity (memory of germs) by imitating an infection. Vaccines expose the body to a small amount of dead or weakened germs, just enough to produce the tools needed to fight the germ without making the person sick. This leaves the body with a memory of how to fight that disease if it comes across it in the future.

What It Means for Us

Sickness is passed around the community constantly. Wherever you live, work or play, you can *and will* be exposed. Thankfully vaccines are recommended for 25 different germs (18 routine, 7 non-routine) that cause severe sickness and may be deadly. Getting vaccines on time is a great way to build the body's natural germ fighting toolbox. People of every age need vaccines. Find out what ones you need, and make sure they are up-to-date!

Learn more at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/vaccines-diseases.html



OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, services, education, and partnerships.

OUR VISION:

Scott County—
A safe and healthy
community.



SPECIAL EVENTS

- *Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom, 12:00 PM, Thursday, August 16, 2018.*

Links

- **CDC Vaccines & Immunizations:**
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/vaccines-diseases.html
- **Iowa Family Support Network:**
<http://www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org/>
- **CDC Learn the Signs. Act Early:**
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>
- **Zero to Three:**
<https://www.zerotothree.org/>

Early ACCESS

Why Screening Is Important

Early identification of children with special education needs help them to receive services as early as possible so they have the best chance of success in kindergarten and beyond. The best way to identify children with needs is with developmental screening. Your child should be screened for development at 9, 18, and 24-30 months, or anytime you have a concern about how he or she is learning or growing. There are a variety of places your child can be screened, including his/her doctor's office, child care, or even the Scott County Health Department! Ask your child's doctor or call **563-328-4114** to learn more and set up a short screening.

If your child is not meeting developmental milestones like most children their age, Early ACCESS is available to help. Early ACCESS is Iowa's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C Program for children birth to age three. Eligibility for services is based on either a diagnosed physical or mental condition, a 25 percent delay in an area of development or the clinical opinion of evaluators. If a referral is made, a service coordinator will contact you within 2 business days to schedule an initial family assessment. Within 45 days and based on the collected information, the program staff will determine if your child is eligible for services. For more information on Early ACCESS you can call Iowa Family Support Network at **1-888-425-4371**.

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