

Dear Families,

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department would like to remind parents and guardians to make an appointment with their child's physician this summer to ensure students are caught up on missed vaccinations before school starts again. Students need to catch up on missed vaccinations now so that they are protected once they go back to school after the summer break. **COVID-19 vaccines will not be required for the 2022-2023 school year, but are strongly recommended.**

One of the most important things a parent or guardian can do to protect their child's health is getting their child vaccinated according to the recommended immunization schedule. Whether parents have a baby starting at a new child care facility, a toddler heading to preschool, a student going back to elementary, middle, or high school – or even a college freshman – parents should check their child's vaccination records. Vaccination protects children from serious illness, complications of vaccine-preventable disease, and even death. Vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, whooping cough, influenza, and COVID-19 are still a threat and continue to infect children, resulting in hospitalizations and deaths every year.

Vaccination is safe and effective. Organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all strongly support protecting children with recommended vaccinations.

For more information about school immunization requirements, contact your child's physician, school nurse or the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Immunization Program at www.sbcphd.org/iz

In addition, Lompoc Unified School District will be partnering with Campus Clinic (formerly COVID Clinic) to provide access to wellness checks, sports physicals, and future vaccinations on our school campuses. More information will be provided to families soon.

Thank you in advance for helping to keep our schools, teachers, staff, and community safe.