



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amy Phelps, Public Information Officer

Amy.j.phelps@wv.gov

Cell phone: 304-588-9697

Direct line: 304-420-1468

OP-ED: August is Immunization Awareness Month

August is Back to School Month, when everyone is concerned with getting their children all of the school supplies and clothes they will need for the new school year. But there's one thing on the checklist many overlook - staying up-to-date on their immunizations.

August is also National Immunization Awareness Month, a time to highlight the importance of immunizations for not just kids, but adults as well.

Everyone in our community wants to be healthy, and part of being healthy is teaching our immune systems how to recognize and prepare to respond to a virus. Immunizations do just that - against diseases that in the not-so-distant past were life-threatening, such as chickenpox, measles, mumps, polio, tetanus, whooping cough, meningitis, and many more. Now, with the help of immunizations, our bodies have learned how to respond to these diseases, and they are less threatening.

Our residents of the Mid-Ohio Valley can help our community have a healthier life by getting routine immunizations. No one wants to have to take time off work because they or a family member are seriously ill, not to mention worrying about paying large bills because of an illness. Getting these routine immunizations - or catching up on ones you or your family member may be behind in - can help prevent this.

Don't forget West Virginia requires certain immunizations for your child to attend public school. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/r7uf72jz> for a list of those required by age.

Let's do what we can to help everyone live a happy and healthy life and make getting your routine immunizations one of the items on your back-to-school list.

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The Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department serves Wood, Wirt, Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie and Roane Counties. It is located at 211 Sixth St. in Parkersburg. The offices are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 304-485-7374 or visit the website, movhd.com for more information. Follow them at Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department MOVHD on Facebook and @MOVHealthDept on Instagram and Twitter.