

IVACCINATE.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2019

Parents: Put Immunizations on Your Family's Back-to-School Checklist

Vaccines protect children and teens from 16 vaccine-preventable diseases by age 18

- WHO:** Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Chief Deputy Director for Health and Chief Medical Executive, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Veronica Valentine McNally, Founder, Franny Strong Foundation
Jeff Cook, Director of Child & Adolescent Health, Beaumont Health
Letha Martin, BSN, RN, Immunization Action Plan Coordinator, Oakland County Health Division
- WHAT:** As the start of a new school year approaches, Michigan health officials are urging families to make sure they are up to date on all immunizations to make sure their loved ones are protected. Michigan and 29 other states continue to battle the country's worst measles outbreak in decades, with more than 1,172 individual cases of measles confirmed nationwide. Michigan has seen 46 cases of measles since the outbreak began in March. The state also continues to see cases of whooping cough, flu and other vaccine-preventable diseases each year.
- WHEN:** **10 a.m., Thursday, August 15, 2019**
- WHERE:** **Beaumont Teen Health Center - River Rouge**
1460 Coolidge Hwy, River Rouge, MI 48218
- WHY:** While only a small percentage of Michigan kindergartners (4.55 percent in 2018) and seventh graders (3.44 percent in 2018) have vaccination waivers, waivers can be problematic if clustered at the building level, when you have higher numbers of unvaccinated kids in one area. Nearly 400 public and private K-12 schools and 295 daycare programs in Michigan had 10 percent or more of their students submit a vaccine waiver form in lieu of immunization records in 2017, state records show. For most vaccine-preventable diseases, when less than 90 percent of children are vaccinated in a particular community, pockets of low vaccination create an environment where diseases can take hold and spread. Areas with more vaccination waivers mean fewer children in the community are vaccinated and the community may not be protected by community immunity.
- CONTACT:** Andie Poole, (517) 485-6600, Mobile (517) 303-0214
apoole@martinwaymire.com

