



St. Lawrence County Public Health Department

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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It's National Immunization Awareness Month! Is Your Family Up to Date on Vaccines?

Canton, NY— The St. Lawrence County Public Health Department is proudly participating in National Immunization Awareness Month. This annual observance highlights the importance of getting recommended vaccines throughout your lifetime. You have the power to protect yourself and your family against serious diseases like whooping cough, cancers caused by HPV, pneumonia, and measles. Currently, areas of New York State are experiencing a measles outbreak. As of August 6th 2019, there are 379 confirmed cases of measles in New York State outside of New York City. So far, 6 counties have been affected.

Vaccines protect you by preparing your immune system to recognize and fight serious and sometimes deadly diseases. To help keep our communities and families safe, the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department encourages you to talk to your health care provider to ensure you and your family members are up to date on recommended vaccines. Getting vaccines **on time** is one of the most important ways to protect yourself and others from serious diseases.

As your children head back to school this fall, make sure vaccination is at the top of your checklist. August is also a key time to make sure you know which vaccines you need to stay healthy. When you get vaccinated, you not only protect yourself but you also help protect the people around you who might be too young or too sick to get vaccinated themselves. If enough people stop getting vaccinated, outbreaks of now rare vaccine-preventable diseases can return, like we have seen with the measles.

The St. Lawrence County Public Health Clinic offers immunizations for children and adults every Wednesday. Please call (315) 229-3452 to make an appointment. The St. Lawrence County Public Health Department will also be sharing information and resources on its Facebook page @SLCPublicHealth to highlight the importance of vaccines. For questions or for more information, please call the Public Health Department at 315-386-2325.

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