

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## Vaccines and Well Child Exams Still Needed

COVID-19 has led to many changes in our normal routines. One great worry is fewer vaccines given to children. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) says 40% less vaccines were given in March and April this year compared to last. This trend raises risks for sicknesses, like measles, whooping cough, or chicken pox. As more people get vaccines, the sickness is less likely to spread from person to person. Vaccines are safe and protect children from many serious diseases.

### Well child visits

Along with the need for vaccines, children need well child visits. These visits, done on time from birth to the teenage years, help to track growth and development, keep up with vaccines, and let parents ask questions.

Telehealth, or virtual visits, have become a vital part of the COVID-19 response, but in-person well child visits are best.

If your child needs an exam or vaccine, now is the time! Call your child's health office and ask what they do to lower the risk of COVID-19. The office may have plans in place for a safe visit, such as: set times for well visits and sick visits; limit who comes with the child; and limit people in the waiting room.

### Back to School

There is much we do not know about next school year, but we do know that the vaccines needed for Iowa children will not change. All children at childcare or school must show proof of immunization on an IDPH Certificate of Immunization or have a valid exemption or provisional certificate. Waiting until your school district confirms in-person classes for the 2020-21 school year could make it hard to get an appointment. Make plans now to get the vaccines your child needs.

### Vaccines for Children at SCDH

SCHD offers vaccines to all Scott County residents, birth through 18 years old, who meet Vaccine for Children (VFC) eligibility. Visits are by appointment only and procedures are in place to protect the public and staff. Call SCHD at 563-326-8616 to reserve a spot.

Even during a worldwide pandemic, staying up-to-date on vaccines and well child visits is as vital as ever.



### 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

- *Our office will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2020 in observation of Independence Day.*
- *Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Location: 1st Floor Boardroom, Scott County Administrative Center or via Webex at 12:00 PM, Thursday, July 16, 2020.*

## Links

### Immunization Resources:

- <https://idph.iowa.gov/immrb/immunization>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>
- <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>
- <https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health/immunization>

### Fireworks Information Center:

- <https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks/>

## Fireworks Safety

### Summer Time Safety

The summer season is often celebrated with parades, family gatherings, and Independence Day celebrations. With social distancing measures in place, many of these activities can't be held in the same manner that most of us are used to. Buying and setting off fireworks is one aspect that has not changed for many people and is a major point of excitement. However, it is also a major injury area every year. During fireworks season, June 20—July 20, an average of 230 people per day receive treatment from an emergency room for fireworks related injuries. Thirty-six percent of injuries are to the hands and fingers, and 19% are to the head, face, ears, and eyes. Some simple safety steps you can take to prevent a hospital visit are:

- Never let children play with or ignite fireworks
- Never re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person



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