

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Local Health Officers Urge Bay Area Families to Prioritize Immunizations in Back-to-School Preparations**

**Alameda County, CA** — As children and families across the Bay Area prepare for the upcoming school year, Bay Area health officials urge everyone to make sure your back-to-school checklist starts with getting your child vaccinated.

Vaccines are safe, effective, and a routine part of preventative health care. They protect against serious diseases such as measles, pertussis (also known as whooping cough), and polio. Health officials in Alameda County are reminding residents to get their children vaccinated and vaccine resources are available.

“Back-to-school is the perfect time to catch up on your children's recommended vaccines,” said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Health Officer. “Vaccines are a safe, effective and simple tool for protecting our kids from serious illness.”

Children in California are required to receive certain immunizations to attend public and private elementary and secondary schools, childcare centers, family day care homes, nursery schools, day nurseries, and developmental centers (pre-kindergarten facilities). Families are encouraged to:

- Check their child's vaccination records with their health care provider or through [California's Digital Vaccine Record portal](#).
- Schedule well-child visits early and before the school year begins to avoid last-minute delays.
- Access low- or no-cost vaccinations through local public health clinics if uninsured or underinsured.

#### **Resources**

- Alameda County Public Health Department: [Measles](#)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Healthy Children. Immunizations: [www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/default.aspx)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Immunization Branch. Resources for Parents / Guardians:



**Public Health  
Department**  
Alameda County Health

[www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/resources-parents.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/resources-parents.aspx)

- My Digital Vaccine Record: [myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/](http://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/)
- Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS): [vaers.hhs.gov/](http://vaers.hhs.gov/)

Health Officers endorsing these recommendations are from the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, Sonoma, and the City of Berkeley.

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### **About Alameda County Health**

Alameda County Health is the local government agency that promotes and protects the health and well-being of all who live, work, learn, and play in the Alameda County. Across our Environmental Health, Behavioral Health, and Public Health departments, and major programs covering emergency response, access to care, and homelessness services, we coordinate and partner with community organizations support a robust safety net, build resilient communities, and improve health for all. We focus on health equity through programs and systemic change to reduce disparities for the people and communities we serve.