



County of Santa Cruz

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: July 24, 2025

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HEALTH OFFICERS URGE BAY AREA FAMILIES TO PRIORITIZE IMMUNIZATIONS IN BACK-TO-SCHOOL PREPARATIONS

SANTA CRUZ 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 healthcare. They protect against serious diseases such as measles, pertussis (also known as whooping cough), and polio.

"Back-to-school is the perfect time to catch up on your children's vaccinations," said Dr. Lisa Hernandez, Santa Cruz County Health Officer. "Vaccines are among our most effective tools to ensure that every child has the chance to grow up healthy and safe."

Children in California attending childcare facilities or schools are required to be vaccinated against several infectious diseases. 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

- [Santa Cruz County Immunization Clinics](#)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Healthy Children. Immunizations: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/default.aspx>
- CDPH Immunization Branch. Resources for Parents / Guardians: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/resources-parents.aspx>
- My Digital Vaccine Record: <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>
- Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS): <https://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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