



NEWS RELEASE . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2021

OCCHD reopens Northeast clinic

All three OCCHD clinics ready to administer back-to-school shots

((Oklahoma City) - The Oklahoma City-County Health Department's northeast health clinic, 2700 NE 63rd St., has reopened and staff are ready to get children vaccinated before returning to school.

With northeast reopening Tuesday, all three OCCHD health clinics are fully opened and offering back-to-school immunizations.

The northeast and south clinics were closed so staff could help with the county's large COVID-19 vaccination effort. As those vaccination events have scaled down, OCCHD staff are able to return to the health clinics. OCCHD's West health clinic only closed as needed and continued to offer family planning services.

While OCCHD is still encouraging anyone who is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine, children also need immunizations for school, especially since many families didn't get their shots last year.

Across the U.S., there was a 14% decline in immunization doses administered in 2020, according to the CDC, with measles vaccinations declining more than 20%.

In Oklahoma, there was a 13% drop in childhood vaccine orders in calendar year 2020. In the adolescent population, there was a 20% decline in 2020, which was alarming given there was a steady increase in adolescent vaccine orders from 2017 to 2019.

Children age 4 to 6 years old need to get a fifth dose of the Dtap vaccine, a fourth dose of the polio vaccine and second doses of MMR and Varicella.

Children age 11 to 12 years old need the Tdap vaccine, which prevents tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis. That age group can also start on the multi-dose human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and the multi-dose Meningococcal vaccine.

Children age 15 and older can also get the HPV vaccine, though they will have to get three shots, compared to only two shots for young people who start it at 11-12 years of age.

All children age 17 and younger should have a parent or legal guardian with them at the

time of vaccination. The legal guardian must bring paperwork showing their guardianship status. Other exceptions can be made for children whose parents or legal guardians are unable to bring them to get vaccinated, though people are encouraged to call the clinics to learn more about OCCHD's protocol.

People age 18 who did not receive their vaccines as a child can get caught up on those immunizations, even without health insurance. OCCHD encourages anyone who is moving into a college residence this fall to consider taking charge of their health and get all their vaccinations.

OCCHD can bill Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Health Choice insurances, though clients can seek reimbursement from other insurance carriers.

Immunizations are offered at a low cost, though people in financial strain can discuss with clinic staff about getting their vaccinations at no cost.

All three clinics offer sexually transmitted infection testing. The northeast clinic is also offering the free COVID-19 vaccine to anyone who is eligible. Southern Oaks and West will offer COVID-19 vaccines starting July 12.

Appointments are preferred at all clinics and can be made three days in advance by calling the clinics. Walk-ins are welcomed, though preference will be given to people with appointments.

Northeast Health Clinic, 2700 NE 63rd, 405-419-4200
South Health Clinic, 6728 S. Hudson Ave., 405-419-4119
West Health Clinic, 4330 NW 10th St., 405-419-4150