



Park Nicollet

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NEW CHICKENPOX REGULATION REMINDS PARENTS “NO SHOTS, NO SCHOOL” IS FIRST LESSON OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Immunization program aims to have children ready for first day of school

ST. LOUIS PARK, Minn., (August 12, 2009)—This fall, students going into kindergarten or seventh grade need to show that they’ve had two doses—not just one—of the chickenpox vaccine. It’s a new Minnesota requirement. State law says school children need to be immunized, or show written proof of exemption, before students can enroll in school. **The *No Shots, No School* immunization program provides a barrier-free service and enhanced access to children needing immunizations.**

Through its Healthy Community Initiative, Park Nicollet Foundation partners with 24 school districts and several health care organizations and independent clinics throughout the Twin Cities to meet immunization requirements through the *No Shots, No School* program. Park Nicollet is a founding member of *No Shots, No School*, now in its 13th year.

Partnering school districts agree to communicate immunization requirements to families in their district and encourage students to see a primary care provider early to make sure immunizations are given and documented before the start of school. If a child is unable to receive required vaccinations, partnering clinics will provide immunizations at no cost to families until September 18th.

“This means children can receive immunizations free of charge and often on the same day parents call the clinic,” says Chris Johnson, MD, medical director of development at Park Nicollet Foundation and a program volunteer.

No Shots, No School clinics agree to:

- Provide immunizations without a physician visit or preventive care exam.
- Accommodate immunization-only visits on the day the clinic is called (in most cases).
- Immunize all children, even if they receive care at another clinic or have no clinic affiliation.
- Provide immunizations to children without direct charge to families (either through patient insurance or Minnesota Vaccine for Children Program)

The program also recognizes the need for each family to have a “medical home.” Partnering clinics are encouraged to build relationships with new patients in order to provide routine, primary care to children and their families.

When receiving immunizations, a parent or legal guardian must accompany children younger than 18 years of age. Parents should bring a copy of the child’s past immunization records and are asked to call ahead if a clinic is not designated as a “walk-in” clinic.

For more information on the *No Shots, No School* program, visit Park Nicollet Foundation’s Web site at www.parknicollet.com/foundation.

Park Nicollet Foundation exists to build healthy communities by responding to community health needs, and to foster and support programs and services that enable Park Nicollet to serve those needs. Park Nicollet Foundation is part of Park Nicollet Health Services, an integrated care system that includes Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital, Park Nicollet Clinic and Park Nicollet Institute.