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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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Send Your Children Back to School with Their Immunizations Up-to-Date

TWIN FALLS-Back-to-school season is here, time for parents to gather supplies and backpacks. It's also the perfect time to make sure your children are up-to-date on their immunizations. August is National Immunization Awareness month, and South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) strongly encourages parents to take this opportunity to keep their children better protected with up-to-date immunizations in preparation for daycare, back-to-school, and college.

“Today’s childhood immunizations protect against serious and potentially life threatening diseases, including polio, measles, whooping cough and chickenpox,” said Lisa Klamm, SCPHD immunization program coordinator. “When children are not immunized, they are at increased risk and can spread diseases to others in their classrooms and community. School age children are **required** to have immunizations.”

Immunizations have eliminated smallpox, polio, and diphtheria in the United States and have nearly eliminated measles, mumps, and tetanus. However, Idaho still ranks the lowest in the nation for completed childhood immunizations. Each year, preventable diseases such as whooping cough continue to be reported in many areas of the state.

Parents can make an appointment by calling the SCPHD clinic in their area. An appointment is required in order to streamline services and reduce waiting times. It is also critical to bring each child’s immunization record to identify what they’ve had or still need.

Immunizations are available by appointment at SCPHD offices in:

- Bellevue: 208-788-4335
- Gooding: 208-934-4477
- Jerome: 208-324-8838
- Mini-Cassia: 208-678-8221
- Twin Falls: 208-737-5966

For information on SCPHD's immunization fees and clinic schedule, visit www.phd5.idaho.gov. For more information on the importance of childhood immunizations, please call Lisa Klamm at SCPHD, 678-8221. A list of required immunizations for children of all ages is available at www.immunizeidaho.org.

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