

## Immunization Waiver Policy

The Monroe County Health Department is responsible for assuring that the public is protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. Across the country, we are seeing outbreaks of diseases such as measles, pertussis and chickenpox, due in part to an increase in the number of children whose parents have waived their immunizations. Although, you may believe these are mild diseases, there are adults and children in our community who, if exposed to these diseases, could have a serious or even fatal health outcome.

It is our responsibility to ensure that **ALL** children are protected and that parents are making an informed decision...a decision that is in the best interest of their child's health and the health of the children around their child, when choosing to waive the immunizations required for school entrance.

### What if you don't immunize your child?

#### **W**ithout immunizations....

- ✓ ...your child is at a greater risk of becoming infected with vaccine-preventable diseases, all of which are serious illnesses.
- ✓ ...your child can infect others, including infants, immune deficient adults and the elderly, who are at risk of suffering a more severe disease.
- ✓ ...your child may be excluded from school or child care for several days or weeks at a time to prevent the spread of a vaccine-preventable disease.

### What to do:

We strongly encourage you to immunize your child, but ultimately the decision is yours. Parents/guardians who wish to waive their child's immunizations will need to make an appointment with the Immunization Clinic at the Monroe County Health Department. **Religious or philosophical waivers will not be accepted unless stamped and signed by a State of Michigan Health Department. Medical waivers must be obtained from the school or the Health Department, and must be signed by the child's physician.** A signed/stamped waiver will be provided to the parent/guardian to give to the school. Any need for exclusion is determined by the local schools.

**To make an appointment, please call (734)240-7800**

