



FOR RELEASE  
April 28, 2015

## **Health Fair great opportunity to update immunizations prior to Kindergarten**

WHITEHORSE—The Whitehorse Health Centre will be hosting a health fair for children entering Kindergarten. The health fair is an opportunity to have immunizations updated and will also offer vision, hearing, height and weight checks. In addition, there will be information on dental care, nutrition, safety, growth and development all hosted in a fun, fair-like atmosphere.

"Our records show that we have high immunization rates for the first two visits, when children are two and four months old," Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon said. "However, when we look at immunizations rates at the ages of six, 12 and 18 months, there is a slight decrease, and then there is the lowest coverage of children being vaccinated between the ages of four and six, which is right before children enter Kindergarten or Grade 1."

Nurses will be on-hand to answer parents' questions. Any parents who missed immunizing their children in the past are encouraged to come to the health fair to begin the process of updating their children's immunization records.

"It is important to insure children's immunizations are up-to-date, especially before they enter the school system as viruses can spread very quickly in close classroom environments," Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Brendan Hanley said. "As we have seen with the recent measles outbreaks in Canada and the United States, those that are not immunized, or have not received their full series of shots are particularly vulnerable when outbreaks occur."

This fun health fair will be hosted on May 7 and 8 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Whitehorse Health Centre located at 9010 Quartz Road. No appointments are required; however, parents should expect to be there for approximately one hour.

If a child has been immunized outside of Yukon, they are asked to bring their child's immunization records with them.

If parents cannot attend the health fair, they are encouraged to call the Whitehorse Health Centre at 667-8864 to arrange an appointment. Appointments are available Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. with extended hours offered every Tuesday until 6:30 p.m.

Parents outside of Whitehorse should contact their local health centre to arrange an immunization appointment for their child.

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*News Release #15-153*



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