

**SHERLITA AMLER, MD, MS, FAAP**  
*Commissioner of Health*



**PAUL ELDRIDGE**  
*County Executive*

**ROBERT MORRIS, PE**  
*Director of Environmental Health*

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
1 Geneva Road, Brewster, New York 10509

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: Thursday, August 18, 2011**

**Contact: Sherlita Amler, MD, Commissioner of Health, Putnam County Department of Health, (845) 808-1390**

**Putnam County Department of Health Reminds Families to Make Sure That Children Get Required Vaccinations Before They Go Back To School**

**Brewster** – It's getting close to back-to-school time! That means it's time to start thinking... are my child's shots up to date?

Parents are preparing for the start of school, students are leaving for college and flu season is approaching. The Putnam County Department of Health is reminding parents that all children must receive certain vaccinations before they begin or return to school or day care this fall, depending on their age and school year. Childhood vaccinations required for school entry protect against potentially-life threatening diseases including diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, hepatitis B, pertussis (whooping cough) and chicken pox. All children entering school must also show proof of having received a complete medical evaluation. Children in day care, pre-K or kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade who do not meet the immunization requirements will not be permitted to attend school. The complete list of required immunizations is available at [www.nyhealth.gov](http://www.nyhealth.gov) or by calling the Putnam County Department of Health's Immunization Program at (845) 808-1332. Vaccinations are still the safest and most effective way to prevent childhood disease.

**Where to Go to Get Your Child Immunized**

Check with your child's doctor about vaccines they may need and make an appointment as soon as possible. Children up to 19 years of age can receive the required vaccinations free of charge at the Health Department's clinics if they meet eligibility requirements. Vaccinations are also available to others for a fee. Call (845) 808-1332 for dates, times and locations of clinics.

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