

**GEORGE LATIMER, Westchester County Executive**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Catherine Cioffi  
Communications Director**

**Office - (914) 995-2932**

**Cell- (914) 954 -5579**

**[CCioffi@westchestergov.com](mailto:CCioffi@westchestergov.com)**

**Caren Halbfinger**

**Office- (914) 813-5013**

**Cell- (914) 224-7651**

**[Cqh4@westchestergov.com](mailto:Cqh4@westchestergov.com)**

## **WESTCHESTER COUNTY WILL OFFER FREE BACK TO SCHOOL VACCINE CLINICS** *Call Westchester County Health Department to make an appointment and determine eligibility*

(White Plains, NY) – The Westchester County Department of Health will book appointments now for its free back-to-school vaccine clinics to assure children have the vaccines they need for school.

On June 13, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation removing non-medical exemptions from school vaccine requirements for children who attend childcare programs or public, private or parochial schools through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, said: “This will be the first school year for which there will be no religious exemptions to vaccinations in New York State. Parents should schedule vaccine visits with their healthcare provider as soon as possible to be sure their children have the vaccines they need to stay in school.”

All children who do not have their required immunizations must have their first dose of vaccinations within 14 days from the first day of school. Parents and guardians of these children must show that they have made appointments for all required follow-up doses within 30 days of the start of school.

The County Health Department can help. Families with no insurance, ChildHealth Plus or Medicaid, should call the County Health Department to schedule an appointment for vaccines at no charge. Call (914) 995-5800 to find out if you qualify and to make an appointment for one of the four special Back-to-School clinics:

- Friday, Aug. 30, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in White Plains
- Tuesday, Sept. 3, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Yonkers
- Saturday, Sept. 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Yonkers
- Tuesday, Sept. 10, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in White Plains

In addition to these special clinics, the Westchester County Department of Health provides free immunizations by appointment in its White Plains and Yonkers clinics to eligible children and students of all ages who are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover vaccines. Vaccine visits can be scheduled on the first and third Fridays in White Plains or on the second and fourth Fridays in Yonkers, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Health Department clinics are located at 20 S. Broadway in Yonkers and at 134 Court St. in White Plains.

Ask your healthcare provider which vaccines your children need. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders must get the meningococcal vaccine, and all students must be vaccinated against whooping cough, measles and mumps.

Health Navigators available through the Health Department can help families and individuals sign up for the health insurance they need. Those without a regular doctor can learn where to go for ongoing primary care. For more information, call (914) 995-6350.

### **About Westchester County**

Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just under a million. Originally home to Native Americans, who were members of the Lenape tribe, it is today a rich mix of many cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages and picturesque towns as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of 6 cities, 19 towns and 20 villages. Westchester County is known for top-notch public schools, and a high quality of life. The County is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world changing non-profits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Using inclusion and openness as a foreground, Latimer is fighting to make Westchester a destination for all people to live, work and enjoy. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com)

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