



**L**ocal departments of health provide services to smaller regions and counties in the state of Tennessee. Their goal is to protect, improve and sustain the health and well-being of all Tennesseans.

### What services or resources does this agency provide?

All of the local health departments offer: child healthcare and special services, immunization shots, primary care, family planning and STD control, tuberculosis control, nutrition and health education, women, infants, and children (WIC) and prenatal care, and TennCare Outreach. Some health departments offer additional services, so check with your local health department for more information.

### What areas of Tennessee do they serve?

Local departments of health are all across the state of Tennessee.

### Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?

The services provided by local departments of health are typically free or charged to insurance. For services charged to insurance, a copay may be issued.

### For which students might this agency be appropriate?

All students would find the services from a county health department to be appropriate. Schools and



other institutions require different vaccinations to protect the individual and others from diseases that are spread easily. In Tennessee, there is an outlined vaccination schedule that families should follow when getting their children vaccinated.

### Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?

Services differ by age, but persons in need of healthcare at any age can access services through their local health department. To receive vaccinations at a reduced cost or for free, the individual must be receiving TennCare, be uninsured or underinsured, or be of American Indian or Alaska Native descent.

### What is the family's responsibility?

The family should ensure that they are getting their child vaccinated based on the schedule provided by the State. They should also make sure they have



appropriate documentation to provide to schools or other organizations/institutions as proof of vaccination.

### **What is the student's responsibility?**

The student should take responsibility for their health needs as they get older and as they transition into adulthood.

### **What is the responsibility of an educator?**

The educator can share information about the services offered at the nearest local health department with the family.

### **How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?**

- Invite a representative from the local health department to speak to students about different health risks teenagers face.
- Parents can work with the health department to ensure their son/daughter has all required vaccinations before attending postsecondary education or starting a job.
- The teacher can provide the parents with program fact sheets (available on most TN health department websites) that gives information about the programs offered to the community.

### **Where can I learn more?**

Visit their website at:

<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/localdepartments.html>

### **What questions should I ask of my local health department?**

- What can I do if I am not sure if I received a certain vaccine?
- Do I have to make an appointment to come in for services?
- What services do you offer at your location?