

PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joint agreement allows Portage County Health Department to vaccinate more children

The Portage County Health Department can now vaccinate more area children through an agreement between it and the Tuscarawas County General Health District, also a designated rural health center.

“This agreement will lead to a healthier and safer environment for Portage County children,” said Health Commissioner Duwayne Porter. “It just goes to show the power of partnership.”

The Portage County Health Department estimates it will be able to vaccinate many more area children because of this agreement.

Previously, underinsured children could receive immunizations only through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program at rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers. Because of funding limitations, only some vaccines were available at local health departments.

Now, these children can receive all available vaccines at the Portage County Health Department for the low cost of \$10 per vaccine administered. The Portage County Health Department provides a walk-in Childhood Immunization Clinic every Wednesday throughout the year from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The clinic is located on the first floor of the Portage County Administration Building, 449 South Meridian Street in Ravenna, across from the WIC office.

“By working together, we have the opportunity to vaccinate 7,000 more children as we continue our efforts to turn around Ohio,” said ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D. “It is imperative children be vaccinated to protect and improve their health and the health of our communities.”

Ohio is the 23rd state to implement such an agreement, and 113 local health districts are participating.

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