

# Vaccinations needed before first day of school

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One week from Monday, students in Lee and Charlotte counties head back to school. But if your child doesn't have the correct shots, they won't be allowed in on the first day.

Before dropping off your four or five-year-old off next week, make sure their shots are up to date because there is a new vaccination requirement this year.

"A fourth polio vaccination, but it has to be done before the first day of school," said Diane Holm, with the Lee County Health Department.

Most kids get three polio vaccines by the time they are 18-months-old. The fourth dose wasn't required until the child turned six.

But the CDC recently changed that, and moved up the time when the fourth dose is needed.

"Data showed it was more effective in preventing disease by having it by the child's fourth birthday and first day of school," Holm explained.

Florida law requires all students to have the required immunizations. If they don't, they won't be allowed in school.

Health departments in Lee, Collier and Charlotte County offer the shots for free.