



**Public Health**  
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**City of St. Joseph**  
**Health Department**

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

City of St. Joseph Health Department  
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### HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO REINSTATE CERTAIN IN-PERSON SERVICES JULY 7, 2020

The City of St. Joseph Health Department at 904 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street is preparing for reinstatement of limited in-person services beginning Tuesday, July 7, 2020. Alterations are being made to our intake processes to protect the public and staff from exposure to COVID-19 and other communicable illnesses.

The St. Joseph School District, in compliance with the State of Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, requires specific immunizations and immunization boosters to be administered to children prior to the start of school. There is no waiver from this ruling in 2020 and parents are responsible for obtaining immunizations for their children before they will be allowed to attend school. Children and youth entering Pre-school, Kindergarten, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades are scheduled for immunizations and boosters according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for immunizations offering disease protection, see [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/).

In adherence to CDC physical distancing guidelines, adjustments to our intake process are necessary. The overview of our plan may change based on client flow and feedback.

All scheduling will take place on-site and will be available from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Once the clinic reaches scheduling capacity, no further clients will be taken for that day. To schedule an immunization visit:

- Come to the health department clinic check-in window to schedule a same day visit
- Present a shot record for each child needing immunizations (2 children per adult maximum)
  - Health department staff will access ShowMeVax for immunization records
  - Health department staff will NOT contact other medical care providers for immunization records
- If the patient has health insurance coverage, present health insurance card; there is no out-of-pocket fee for immunizations
- Client will give mobile phone number and/or a vehicle description
- Client will return to their vehicle to wait until they are called into the health department clinic to continue the process
- Once contacted, clients will be given 15 minutes to claim their spot
  - If the client does not answer their phone (phone access) or staff are not able to find the designated car make/model (non-phone access), the client will forfeit their place in the appointment queue
- The client returns to the clinic waiting area, checks in at the front desk and receives paperwork for each child needing immunizations (2 children per adult maximum)
- Once paperwork is completed, the client and child(ren) will be asked to wait in the clinic waiting room
- A nurse will bring the parent/guardian and child(ren) into a patient room for the immunization(s)

ShowMeVax, Missouri's immunization information system, is a centralized resource for tracking individual immunization history and status. It is a confidential, computerized system that collects immunization records and helps

ensure correct and timely immunizations. Health Department staff will access shot records through ShowMeVax (SMV) only. It will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian (18 years or older) to bring the child's immunization history if unavailable through SMV because they are new to Missouri or are patients of a medical practice that does not input records into the ShowMeVax system.

The health department is requesting parents bring no more than two (2) children to get immunizations at once, and to only bring children who are getting immunizations. When receiving the immunization(s), the parent or guardian will be solely responsible for the control of the children. Parents will be responsible for keeping children still during the vaccination process.

Due to the probability of limited access, priority will be given to preschool, kindergarten, 8th and 12th grade students through August to help families meet the immunization regulations for school entry. The health department does not charge for preventative care such as immunizations, but we do accept health insurance to help cover the cost of vaccine.

Tuberculosis (TB) testing will also resume on July 7, 2020. The process will be very similar, with fewer steps. Those wishing to receive a TB test will check in at the clinic window, be asked to wait in their vehicle, and will be called back in the order they were checked in. At times, TB clients may be called back earlier than an immunization client based on staff assignments, but TB clients should anticipate waiting their turn with immunization clients. TB testing is done on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Missouri birth and death records are available in-person as well, also with limited capacity for people in the second floor waiting room. Once the limit of people has been reached, people will be asked to wait in a hallway with markings for physical distancing.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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