



JIM DAVIS/DNJ FILE

Ginny Beck, left, gives a shot to Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School student Jesus Torres inside the Middle Tennessee Medical Center Mobile Health Unit during its visit to the campus of Mitchell Neilson Primary School in July. Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools sent home more than 230 seventh-graders Monday for failing to have their required immunizations, but Rutherford County Schools has only had a few such instances.

# Students up to date on shots

## County, city schools not seeing problems like other systems

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Some midstate students are missing school for not having a current immunization record on file, but that's not the case in Rutherford County.

The state Department of Health approved a new im-

munization schedule for students entering pre-K, kindergarten and seventh grade in March. Pre-schoolers and kindergartners required four additional vaccines — hepatitis A, hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. Seventh-graders had to get a tetanus

booster and show verification of immunity against chicken pox.

Rutherford County Schools spokesman James Evans said there were a few cases of seventh-grade students not having the booster shot and chicken pox data on file just as students were heading out for fall break. The exact number of students needing the shots before returning to school was unavailable.

"The state gave everyone until Oct. 1, so there were

some schools still tracking down parents the week before fall break," he said, adding those cases have since been handled. "Once parents knew that their children would not be able to return to school without the immunizations, it was resolved quickly."

Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools sent home more than 230 seventh-graders Monday after extending the deadline to accommo-

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# SHOTS

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date the system's fall break. Metro Public Health Department in Nashville held a shot clinic a couple of weeks

ago to accommodate more than 1,000 students in Metro schools feared to be lacking the shots.

Students who did not have the updated shot records when enrolling in pre-K and kinder-

garten at Murfreesboro City Schools were sent to another school where the system's mobile health unit was stationed before completing the process. The system serves students through sixth grade.

Andrea Cain, supervisor of coordinated school health for the city's system, said schools had been working with families since the spring by hosting shot clinics, sending flyers home and using oth-

er appropriate means.

"We may have a few families that the schools are still working with to meet the requirements, but there should not be very many," she said.

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