

News: For Immediate Release

Additional Information Contact:

Gene M. Ransom, CEO

Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

MEDCHI ENCOURAGES FAMILIES TO PRIORITIZE BACK-TO-SCHOOL AND DAYCARE HEALTH PREPAREDNESS DURING NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

BALTIMORE – August 12, 2026 – As families across Maryland prepare for the start of a new school year, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is reminding parents and caregivers that National Immunization Awareness Month is also an opportunity to ensure children are ready for a healthy return to classrooms and daycare settings.

Back-to-school preparation involves more than buying school supplies and new clothes. Schools and childcare centers bring children together in close contact, creating environments where common illnesses can spread quickly. Taking time before the school year begins to complete required health forms, establishing care with a primary care physician if needed, and addressing any outstanding health concerns can help families avoid unnecessary delays or disruptions once classes begin.

“Back-to-school season is one of the busiest times of the year for families and healthcare providers,” said **Dr. Eric Wargotz, President of MedChi**. “Planning ahead allows parents to complete required health documentation, discuss any concerns with their child's physician, and help ensure students are ready to learn from the first day of school. Being prepared benefits not only individual children but entire school communities.”

Parents are encouraged to review their school's or childcare provider's health requirements well before the first day of attendance. In addition to required documentation, annual checkups provide an opportunity to discuss a child's growth and development, nutrition, sleep habits, physical activity, vision and hearing concerns, behavioral health, and any chronic medical conditions that may require accommodations during the school day.

For families entering daycare or enrolling children in school for the first time, understanding health requirements early can help prevent last-minute challenges and provide ample time to complete any necessary documentation.

“Healthy students are better positioned to succeed both academically and socially,” Dr. Wargotz added. “Working proactively with your child's healthcare team before the school year begins helps create a strong foundation for a successful and healthy school experience.”

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.