



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**Tdap immunizations given at Shawnee clinic on Jan. 23**

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (Jan. 22, 2018) – Pertussis, better known as whooping cough, can be a life-threatening illness for infants. That’s why the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment is giving Tdap immunizations to adults who have close contact with infants on Jan. 23 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the St. Joseph Early Education Center, 11525 Johnson Drive in Shawnee, Kan.

Pertussis is very contagious respiratory illness that typically starts with cold-like symptoms in adults (cough, low-grade fever, runny nose) and progresses into extreme coughing fits that can cause vomiting and fatigue. Young children and infants who contract the disease can be hospitalized with serious and sometimes deadly complications.

“Babies less than a year old are not fully immunized against whooping cough,” says Lougene Marsh, JCDHE director. “Anyone who cares for or is around infants – parents, grandparents, child care providers – needs to get vaccinated so they don’t spread the illness to the youngest members of our community.” In addition to pertussis, the Tdap vaccine also protects adults from tetanus and diphtheria.

**There is a \$20 charge for the vaccine at the clinic and the supply is limited.** Cash, check or credit card is accepted. JCDHE also accepts insurance from KanCare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cigna, Coventry and UnitedHealthcare. Medicare, Coventry Advantra or Humana Gold Plus are excluded from this service. Check your health benefit plan to confirm coverage for payment of services.

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**About Johnson County, Kansas**

Located in the southwestern quadrant of the Kansas City Metropolitan Region, Johnson County, Kansas is a community of choice with a current population of more than 580,000, making it the most populated of the 105 counties in Kansas, but traditionally having the lowest mill levy in the state. For more information visit the county’s website at [www.jocogov.org](http://www.jocogov.org).