



# Mary's Center

Quality healthcare. Stronger communities.

**Press Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Mary's Center Hosts No Shots, No School Campaign Event**

**Washington, DC** – Mary's Center hosted a No Shots, No School Campaign Event on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am-12:30pm at their clinic on Georgia Avenue in northwest DC. The campaign is part of an initiative from the DC Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), which is under the DC Health's Immunization Program.

VFC is a federally-funded program that provides vaccines free of charge to enrolled providers that serve eligible patients. VFC helps ensure that all children have a better chance of getting their recommended vaccinations on schedule.

VFC vaccines are available to children 0 through 18 (under 19) who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Eligible for Medicaid or enrolled in Medicaid
- Uninsured
- Underinsured (insurance coverage that does not include vaccines; vaccines must be received at a federally qualified health center (FQHC), or
- Are American Indian or Alaskan Native

As a FQHC, Mary's Center administers vaccines to children who are eligible for the VFC program at all of their sites throughout DC and Maryland. To receive a vaccine, Mary's Center asks that participants schedule an appointment with their provider.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to host the No Shots, No School Campaign Event at Mary's Center," said Maria Gomez, President and CEO of Mary's Center. "We welcome the opportunity to spread the campaign's message to our community."



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As part of Monday's event, Mary's Center's President/CEO, Maria Gomez, Mary's Center's lead pediatrician, Dr. Jessica Schroeder, DC's Mayor, Muriel Bowser, and the Deputy Mayor for Education, Paul Kihn, gave remarks on the importance of vaccinating children for their own safety and the safety of the entire community. They also spoke about DC's strict vaccination laws and the requirement that all children attending DC schools are up-to-date on their vaccinations.

Following the press event, a young child was vaccinated at Mary's Center in front of camera crews and government officials to demonstrate the ease and importance of receiving vaccines.

"The pediatric providers at Mary's Center want to emphasize that vaccines are safe, save lives, protect children, and make and communities healthier. We consider immunizations one of the most important things that parents can do to for their children," said Dr. Jessica Schroeder, Pediatrician at Mary's Center. "Getting infants and children immunized helps to keep all of us healthier by creating immunity on a population level, thereby ensuring that the most vulnerable among us won't contract deadly infections."

For more information about vaccinations, check out Mary's Center's blog, [5 Facts You Should Know About Child Vaccinations](#), or [schedule an appointment with one of Mary's Center's providers](#).

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## [About Mary's Center](#)

Founded in 1988, Mary's Center is a federally qualified health center that provides healthcare, educational, and social services to more than 53,000 individuals from over 50 countries. Using a holistic, multipronged approach, Mary's Center helps participants access individualized services that set them on the path toward good health, stability, and economic independence. For more information, visit [www.maryscenter.org](http://www.maryscenter.org).