



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Columbia Valley Community Health Hosting Back to School Health Fair** *Free Backpacks, Free Books, Immunizations and Physicals available*

Monday, July 16, 2012: **Wenatchee, WA:** [Columbia Valley Community Health](#) (CVCH) is pleased to announce its third annual [Back to School Health Fair](#) on Saturday, August 11, 2012 from 10am to 1pm at its Wenatchee facility, located at 600 Orondo Ave. During this fun community event, school-aged children will receive free backpacks and age-appropriate books while supplies last. There will be games, prizes and opportunities for attendees to win a grand prize package – one of which includes a brand new bike. Medical staff will be administering immunizations and sports physicals. Children may become current with their “back to school” immunizations during this event without an appointment, but individuals interested in receiving a sports physical are encouraged to make an appointment in advance by calling 509.662.6000.

There will be exciting activities and community resources for the whole family in the CVCH parking lot during the health fair. **Marlen Mendez**, Outreach Supervisor at Columbia Valley Community Health, says it’s important to let our community know that we’re here to help keep families healthy.

Most CVCH services will be represented at various booths with staff members hosting games, giving away prizes and offering important health-related information. Attendees can talk to CVCH professionals from Family Medical, Children’s Dental, Pharmacy, Behavioral Medicine, Behavioral Health, and WIC (Nutritional Program). Other community partners will be on site offering service information and additional give-away opportunities. Some of these participating community partners include YMCA, Head Start, Wenatchee Fire Department, RiverCom 911, TOGETHER for Drug Free Youth, EPIC, and United Way.

Students may also receive a free book at the health fair. CVCH promotes early childhood literacy by participating in the national Reach Out and Read program that encourages parents to read to their child at every stage of development. Mendez says increasing a child’s exposure to developmentally appropriate books increases a child’s skills to succeed in school and other aspects of life.

This Back to School Health Fair is part of [National Health Center Week](#) running August 5 – 11, 2012. This national campaign is meant to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America’s Health Centers as local solutions to community health needs. The theme of this year’s National Health Center Week is “*Celebrating America’s Health Centers: Powering Healthier Communities*,” to underscore how Community Health Centers provide access to affordable, high quality, cost effective health care to medically vulnerable and underserved people throughout the United States.

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*CVCH Press Release: Celebrating National Health Center Week with a Back To School Health Fair Continued*

For more information about this Back to School Health Fair event, contact [Marlen Mendez](#) at 509.661.3623. For more information about CVCH and its programs, please contact [Dan Heindel](#), Director of Planning and Development at CVCH, at 509.664.3530.

**About Columbia Valley Community Health**

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Their mission is to provide access to improved health and wellness with compassion and respect for all.

Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader – one of only 18 organizations in the United States, and first in the Pacific Northwest, to achieve the Joint Commission's Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves well over 20,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.

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