Did you Know

High blood pressure is more common in children with obesity. Children who have high blood pressure have a greater risk of developing these conditions during their lifetime:

- Stroke
- Heart disease
- Kidney disease
- Seizures

Be a Role Model
Don’t smoke around your child. Call the Maine Tobacco Helpline for help with quitting, 1-800-207-1230

COME PREPARED FOR YOUR CHILD’S BLOOD PRESSURE READING

www.letsgo.org
What do blood pressure numbers mean?
Blood pressure is measured by two numbers. The top number, “systolic” is the pressure in the blood vessels when the heart beats. The bottom number, “diastolic,” is the pressure in the blood vessels between heartbeats.

Normal blood pressure in childhood:
• Varies depending upon your child’s age and gender
• Should be checked once a year beginning at age 3

High blood pressure in childhood:
• May be checked at every visit
• Raises the risk of high blood pressure in adulthood

Tips from Redy
To keep blood pressure in the normal range live by 5-2-1-0!

- For more fruits & vegetables
- 5 or more hours or less recreational screen time*
- 2 hours or more of physical activity
- 1 hour or more sugary drinks, more water

*Keep TV/computer out of the bedroom. No screen time under the age of 2.

• Use less salt
• Resist using tobacco products

Steps for a blood pressure check
1. Have your child wear a short-sleeved shirt or a shirt that can be easily slipped off the arm.

2. For Teens: At least 30 minutes before the appointment, Do Not:
   • Smoke
   • Exercise
   • Drink caffeine – no coffee, tea, soda or energy drinks

3. At least five minutes before your child’s blood pressure check, have your child:
   • Empty his or her bladder
   • Sit quietly with both feet on the floor and his or her back supported, if possible

4. Don’t talk with your child while his or her blood pressure is being checked.