



**PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA**

Central Michigan District Health Department  
“Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities”

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 8409  
2012 E. Preston Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org)

**To: Local News Media**

**From: Central Michigan District Health Department**

**RE: National Infant Immunization Week (April 18 – 25, 2015)**

**Release Date: Immediately**

“Immunizations - Power to Protect.” National Infant Immunization Week is a time to focus on immunizations and remind parents and caregivers to immunize their children in order to protect not only their health, but the health of the entire community. Parents, providers, schools and the entire community play a role. Immunizations are one of the best ways to protect children against serious diseases. Parents are encouraged to talk with their child’s doctor to ensure that they are up-to-date on immunizations. By being immunized, we can help stop the spread of disease to others who may not be completely immunized, such as the elderly and those with weakened immune systems.

By the time a child reaches his/her 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, they should receive the following immunizations to help protect them against multiple diseases:

- 2 doses of Hepatitis A
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 3 doses of Rotavirus
- 4 doses of DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
- 4 doses of Hib (H. Influenza, type b)
- 3 doses of Polio
- 1 dose of MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- 1 dose of Varicella (Chickenpox vaccine)
- 4 doses of Pneumococcal
- Seasonal Flu (number of doses vary with age – check with your doctor)

Additional doses of some vaccines listed above are needed at 4 to 6 years of age and again at 11 to 12 years of age.

When children receive their immunizations, side effects, if any, are usually mild and can include: tiredness, low-grade fever and tenderness at the site where the immunization was given in the arm or leg. Children are more likely to be harmed by vaccine preventable diseases than by receiving immunizations. If children do not receive their immunizations and are diagnosed with these diseases, they could experience the following: fever, chills, breathing problems, heart problems, pneumonia, infections, brain damage, nausea, rashes, hospitalization and even death. More information on infant/child immunizations can be found at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org) (Immunization Action Coalition).

During this awareness week, we are asking parents and caregivers to call your doctor or local Central Michigan District Health Department branch office (listed below) and make an appointment for your child to get immunized. Also, it's important for parents and caregivers to be immunized as well, especially for diseases such as pertussis (whooping cough), chickenpox and measles. Remember to ask at your next doctor's visit which immunizations you need.

Arenac County: (989) 846-6541 ext. 15

Isabella County: (989) 773-5921 ext. 15

Clare County: (989) 539-6731 ext. 15

Osceola County: (231) 832-5532 ext. 15

Gladwin County: (989) 426-9431 ext. 15

Roscommon County: (989) 366-9166 ext. 15

If you would like an opportunity to get involved in promoting the importance of immunizations, consider joining Together We Can. Together We Can is a community project aimed at improving health status in the central Michigan area. For more information LIKE Together We Can Health Improvement Council on Facebook, visit our website at [www.together-we-can.org](http://www.together-we-can.org) or email us at [TogetherWeCan@cmdhd.org](mailto:TogetherWeCan@cmdhd.org).

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org), LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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*To request an interview, please visit our website ([cmdhd.org](http://cmdhd.org)) and fill out the Media Interview Request Form.*