To: Media
From: Central Michigan District Health Department
RE: National Infant Immunization Week (April 16-23, 2016)
Release Date: April 2016

“Immunizations - Power to Protect”

“PROTECTING BOTH CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND THE COMMUNITY”

National Infant Immunization Week is a time to remind parents and caregivers to immunize their children in order to protect not only their health, but the health of the entire community. Parents, healthcare providers, schools and community members all play a role in the promotion of immunizations. 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 with a weakened immune system or who may not be completely immunized, such as the elderly.

By the time a child reaches his/her 2nd 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)
A priority for parents is to keep their child safe from harm and immunizations are one of the best ways to protect your infant from serious diseases. Immunizations can save the lives of children. Parents are often concerned about potential side effects of vaccinations; however, children are more likely to be harmed by vaccine preventable diseases than by receiving immunizations. 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. 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 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and 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. It is also important for parents and caregivers to be immunized, especially for diseases such as pertussis (whooping cough), chickenpox and measles. Remember to check with your healthcare provider regarding which immunizations you should receive.

Arenac County: (989) 846-6541 ext. 1111
Clare County: (989) 539-6731 ext. 1214
Gladwin County: (989) 426-9431 ext. 1310
Isabella County: (989) 773-5921 ext. 1405
Osceola County: (231) 832-5532 ext. 1510
Roscommon County: (989) 366-9166 ext. 1612

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, LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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