To: Local Newspaper

From: Dan Lowery, Health Educator

RE: National Infant Immunization Week

Release Date: April 2010

National Infant Immunization Week April 24 – May 1, 2010

National Infant Immunization Week is held annually to emphasize the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases. It serves as a reminder to parents and caregivers to protect their children’s health by making them resistant to vaccine preventable diseases and creates a healthier community. Vaccinated children help stop the spread of diseases to others who may not be completely protected; such as the elderly and those with weakened immune systems. Due to the success of vaccines, parents and caregivers may be unaware of all the life-threatening diseases children are at risk for. These diseases are at an all-time low in the United States, but immunizations are still needed to prevent infections and potential outbreaks. It is more likely that a child will be harmed by vaccine-preventable diseases than by receiving the actual immunizations. If diagnosed with one of these diseases, a child could experience the following: fever, chills, breathing problems, heart problems, pneumonia, infections, brain damage, nausea, rashes, hospitalization and even death.

Before a child reaches their 2\textsuperscript{nd} birthday, he or she should receive the following immunizations:

- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 4 doses of DTaP (Diptheria, Tetanus, Pertussis/whooping cough)
- 3-4 doses of Hib (H. Influenza, type b) - the number of doses depends on the brand of Hib
- 3 doses of Polio
- 1 dose of MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- 1 dose of Varicella (Chickenpox vaccine)
- Pneumococcal (number of doses vary according to age in which series began)
- 2 doses of Hepatitis A
- 3 doses of Rotavirus
• Annual influenza vaccine is also recommended, especially for children ages 6 months – 5 years.

After receiving an immunization, a child may experience mild side effects including: tiredness, low-grade fever and tenderness at the site of injection. More information on infant/child immunizations can be found at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) (Center’s for Disease Control) and [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org) (Immunization Action Coalition).

During National Infant Immunization Week, we are asking parents and caregivers to call your health care provider or your local Central Michigan District Health Department branch office and make an appointment for your child to get vaccinated.

Arenac: (989) 846-6541  
Personal Health ext. 8111  
Isabella: (989) 773-5921  
Personal Health ext. 8405  
Clare: (989) 539-6731  
Personal Health ext. 8214  
Osceola: (231) 832-5532  
Personal Health ext. 8510  
Gladwin: (989) 426-9431  
Personal Health ext. 8310  
Roscommon: (989) 366-9166  
Personal Health ext. 8674

This article is brought to you by the staff at Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves residents in the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon.

Visit our website at [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org)

###