



Central Michigan District Health Department  
“Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities”  
For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 109  
2012 E. Preston Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org)

**To: Local Newspaper**

**From: Dan Lowery, Health Educator**

**RE: National Infant Immunization Week**

**Release Date: April 2008**

National Infant Immunization Week occurs April 21 - 28. It serves as a reminder to parents and caregivers to immunize their children to protect not only their health, but also the health of the entire community. When infants and young children are not immunized against vaccine preventable diseases, they are more at risk of being infected. Immunized children help stop the spread of disease to others who may not be completely immune, such as the elderly and those with weakened immune systems. “We are winning the war against vaccine preventable diseases but they keep fighting to resurface. Don’t leave your children defenseless. Keep their immunizations up to date,” states Dr. Robert Graham, Medical Director for the Central Michigan District Health Department.

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

- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 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)
- 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 – 59 months

When children do receive their immunizations, side effects, if any, are usually mild and can include: tiredness, low-grade fever and tenderness at 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 the actual 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 death. More information on infant/child immunizations can be found at [www.cdc.gov/nip](http://www.cdc.gov/nip) (Center's for Disease Control, National Immunization Program) and [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org) (Immunization Action Coalition).

During this national awareness 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 immunized.

Arenac	989-846-6541 ext. 23 & 11	Isabella	989-773-5921 ext. 105
Clare	989-539-6731 ext. 14	Osceola	231-832-5532 ext. 10
Gladwin	989-426-9431 ext. 10	Roscommon	989-366-9166 ext. 74

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.

###