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National Infant Immunization Week

Join the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and communities around the nation in recognizing National Infant Immunization Week April 25 – May 2, 2020. The purpose of this annual observance is to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunizations.

Before even reaching the age of two, immunizations can protect children and infants from 14 vaccine-preventable diseases. According to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry, as of March 31st, 2020, only 57% of Michigan’s children aged 19-35 months were fully immunized with the recommended vaccines. Immunization are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing death and disease.

National Infant Immunization Week is a time to remind and bring attention to the critical role that vaccinations play in protecting the health of our children, families, and communities. Many see vaccine prevented diseases as a threat from the past, however, children can still get and spread these diseases. In recent years the U.S. has seen the return of vaccine preventable diseases, that were once considered eliminated, such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough.

“Now, as much as any other time, it is important that we make every effort to protect our infants and young children by making sure they can get all their vaccines and follow the recommended schedule,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. “Pediatricians and the Health Department agree that these visits for immunizations are essential and should not be postponed.”

We are currently living in unprecedented times and working hard to protect our residents from COVID-19, a virus for which we do not have a vaccine. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan continues to schedule immunization appointments to protect infants and children in our communities.

No child will be denied of necessary vaccinations if unable to pay. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has financial support programs available for immunizations. Call 1-800-432-4121 to schedule an appointment.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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