

**MEDIA REQUESTS:**

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[j.pung@nwhealth.org](mailto:j.pung@nwhealth.org)[www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org)**April 22, 2022****Health Department of Northwest Michigan****National Infant Immunization Week serves as reminder  
to stay up to date with routine vaccinations**

Join the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and communities around the nation in recognizing National Infant Immunization Week April 24-30, 2022. This year, a primary focus of National Infant Immunization Week is to ensure families stay on track for their children's well-child visits and routinely recommended vaccinations.

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

Before reaching the age of two, immunizations can protect infants and children from [14 vaccine preventable diseases](#). As a result of the pandemic, vaccination rates for Michigan children ages 19 to 36 months have fallen below 70% in more than half of the state, according to February 2021 data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). Below are individual county immunization report cards from December 2021:

- [Antrim County Quarterly Immunization Report Card](#)
- [Charlevoix County Quarterly Immunization Report Card](#)
- [Emmet County Quarterly Immunization Report Card](#)
- [Otsego County Quarterly Immunization Report Card](#)

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing infectious diseases and death. Among children born during 1994-2018, vaccination will prevent an estimated 419 million illnesses, 26.8 million hospitalizations, and 936,000 deaths over their lifetimes, according to the [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases](#).

"Our health department continues to make every effort to protect our infants and young children by ensuring they can follow the recommended schedule. Regardless of a client's insurance status, our health department has the recommended vaccines, and no child will be denied needed immunizations if unable to pay," said Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. "Medical professionals agree that visits for immunizations are essential, and we should work to ensure our families have equitable access to getting recommended vaccinations."

*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](http://nwhealth.org).*

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan continues to offer immunization appointments to protect infants and children in our communities. Clinics are located in Charlevoix, Boyne City, Bellaire, Mancelona, Gaylord, Petoskey/Harbor Springs, and Pellston. For the schedule of dates and times, [click here](#). For information on financial support programs for immunizations or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-432-4121.

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