



April 25, 2014

Contact: Tom Schlueter (630) 444-3098

(630) 417-9729 cell

Health Department observes National Infant Immunization Week April 26-May 3

Each year, numerous vaccine-preventable illnesses are reported in Illinois. Certain diseases, such as measles, are making a comeback as some parents choose to either delay or decline vaccinations for their children. In observance of National Infant Immunization Week, April 26 to May 3, the Kane County Health Department is reminding parents to follow the recommended immunization schedule to protect their infants and children by providing immunity early in life.

“Babies need to visit a doctor or clinic for vaccinations at least five times by the age of 2 for protection against serious childhood diseases,” said Barbara Jeffers, the Kane County Health Department’s Executive Director. “Immunizations not only provide individual protection to each child, but protect the health of the entire community.”

The Health Department’s Immunizations Program works to prevent the spread of illness by vaccinating adults and children for protection against a wide variety of diseases. These diseases can be especially serious for infants and young children. Last year the program provided more than 300 vaccinations to babies up to 2 years of age. Vaccine-preventable diseases still circulate in the United States and around the world. The health department monitors health status to identify community health problems, investigates health problems and outbreaks, and informs and educates the public on health issues, including vaccine-preventable illnesses.

(MORE)

One example of the seriousness of vaccine-preventable diseases is an increase in measles cases or outbreaks that were reported in 2013. Data from 2013 showed a higher than normal number of measles cases nationally and in individual states, including an outbreak of 58 cases in New York City that was the largest reported outbreak of measles in the U.S. since 1996.

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They not only help protect vaccinated individuals, but also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases. Diseases that vaccines protect against include chickenpox, diphtheria, measles, mumps, pertussis, polio, rubella, tetanus, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, rotavirus, haemophilus influenza type b, pneumococcus, and influenza. For the 2014 infant immunizations schedule, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child.html>

Immunizations are available at the Kane County Health Department's Immunizations Clinic, 1240 N. Highland Ave., Aurora. The clinic is open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. For more information or to make an appointment, call: (630) 264-7665- or visit: www.kanehealth.com.

The Kane County Health Department is a member of the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC), a 501 (c)(4) organization of public health departments. Members include the health departments of the City of Chicago, the Village of Skokie, and the Counties of Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will and Winnebago. These organizations are promoting in unison the importance of immunizations in observance of National Infant Immunizations Week.

###