



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2010

Contact: Noreen Nickola-Williams
(904) 825-5055 x 1123

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATIONS WEEK, APRIL 24 – MAY 1, 2010

ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FL - St. Johns County Health Department reminds the community that “National Infant Immunizations Week” (NIIW) is observed from April 24 to May 1 this year. NIIW is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Each day, nearly 12,000 babies are born in the United States who will need to be immunized against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before age two. Immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious diseases.

“Because of the success of vaccines in preventing disease in the United States, parents are often unaware that their children are at risk for so many serious and life-threatening diseases,” Dr. Dawn Allicock, Director of St. Johns County Health Department, said in a statement early this week. “Parents are encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider to ensure that their infant is up-to-date on immunizations”.

Five Important Reasons to Immunize Your Child

- **Immunizations can save your child’s life.** Because of advances in medical science, your child can be protected against more diseases than ever before.
- **Vaccination is safe and effective.** Vaccines are thoroughly tested before being approved for public use and monitored carefully by doctors, researchers, and public health officials.
- **Immunization protects others you care about.** Immunizations not only protect your family, but also help prevent the spread of these diseases to your friends and loved ones.
- **Immunizations can save your family time and money.** Vaccines not only prevent disease, they reduce the costs associated with missed time from work, doctor visits, and hospitalizations.
- **Immunization protects future generations.** Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases that had disabling and fatal just a few generations before.

For information on Child Immunization Services and other St. Johns County Health Department services, please visit www.StJohnsCHD.org or call us at 904-825-5055.

###

***Our Mission:** Promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida.*

***Our Vision:** A healthier future for the people of Florida.*

***Our Values:** - Integrity; Commitment to Service; Respect; Excellence; Accountability; Teamwork; Empowerment –*



St. Johns County Health Department
1955 US 1 South, Suite 100, St. Augustine, FL 32086
Phone: (904) 825-5055
www.StJohnsCHD.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.