



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Health Press Release

National Immunization Awareness Month

News Release From: **Jackson County Health Department**

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JACKSON COUNTY, Mich. – Getting all shots that are recommended by the immunization schedule is one of the most important things a parent can do to protect their child’s health. During National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), the Jackson County Health Department would like to encourage parents to make sure that their children are up-to-date with all recommended vaccines. Diseases can quickly spread among groups of children who are not vaccinated. Whether it’s a baby starting at a new childcare facility, a toddler heading to preschool, a student going back to elementary, middle or high school – or even a college freshman – parents should check their child’s vaccination records and get any shots they are behind on.

Childcare facilities, preschool programs, schools and colleges are prone to outbreaks of infectious diseases. Children in these settings can easily spread illnesses to one another due to poor hand washing, not covering their coughs, and other factors such as interacting in crowded environments. When children are not vaccinated, they are at increased risk for disease and can spread disease to others in their play groups, childcare centers, classrooms and communities – including babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer and other health conditions.

“In Michigan children are required to be compliant with immunization requirements on or before the first day of school, preschool or childcare,” stated Angela Aldrich, Director of Personal and Preventative Health at the Jackson County Health Department. “Now is the time to make sure your children have all the recommended vaccines, so they can be ready to start school.”

If you are concerned with the cost of shots, the Jackson County Health Department can help. Children who are uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, Native American or Alaska native may be eligible for free or low-cost shots through the Immunization Clinic at the Jackson County Health Department. The clinic is located at 1715 Lansing Avenue and is open Monday through Friday 8:00 – 4:00. The second Tuesday of each month, the Immunization Clinic is open 8:00 – 6:00.

For more information on immunizations go to <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html>.

Thank you for your assistance in helping to promote National Immunization Awareness Month. For additional information, contact the Immunization Clinic at the Jackson County Health Department at (517) 788-4468. ***Immunize on time, every time.***

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