

WAUKESHA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

615 W. Moreland Boulevard

Waukesha, WI 53188

Phone: (262) 896-8430

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 18, 2012

CONTACT: Julianne Davan, Public Information Officer – (262) 548-7902

FOUR IMPORTANT REASONS TO VACCINATE YOUR CHILD

WAUKESHA, Wis. – April 21-28 is National Infant Immunization Week. The Waukesha County Public Health Division would like to remind you to make sure your child's shots are up to date.

You want to do what is best for your child. Did you know that one of the best ways to protect your children is to make sure they have **all** of their vaccinations?

Immunizations can save your child's life. Because of advances in medical science, your child can be protected against more diseases than ever before. Some diseases that once injured or killed thousands of children, have been eliminated completely and others are close to extinction— primarily due to safe and effective vaccines.

Vaccination is very safe and effective. Vaccines are only given to children after a long and careful review by scientists, doctors, and healthcare professionals. Vaccines will involve some discomfort and may cause pain, redness, or tenderness at the site of injection but this is minimal compared to the pain, discomfort, and trauma of the diseases these vaccines prevent. Serious side effects following vaccination, such as severe allergic reaction, are very rare.

Immunization protects others you care about. Children in the U.S. still get vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and whooping cough (pertussis). Unfortunately, some babies are too young to be completely vaccinated and some people may not be able to receive certain vaccinations due to severe allergies, weakened immune systems or other reasons. Making sure that you and your children are fully immunized not only protects your family, but also helps prevent the spread of these diseases to your friends and loved ones who cannot receive vaccines.

Immunizations can save your family time and money. A child with a vaccine-preventable disease can be denied attendance at schools or daycare facilities. Some vaccine-preventable diseases can result in prolonged disabilities and can take a financial toll because of lost time at work, medical bills or long-term disability care. In contrast, getting vaccinated against these diseases is a good investment and usually covered by insurance.

Immunization Clinics are held each month in communities throughout Waukesha County. For immunization clinic dates, times, and locations, please visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/immunizations or call the Waukesha County Public Health Division at (262)896-8430. Immunizations are also available at the Waukesha County Public Health Center located at 615 W. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Walk-in service is available at all clinic locations. Many vaccines are available for a \$7 fee. Cash, check or Medicaid are accepted. No child will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information about the importance of infant immunization, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>.

###