

MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** **Warning** **Update**

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**St. Clair County Health Department Celebrates National Infant Immunization Week
April 21-28**

This annual observance highlights the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrates the achievements of immunizations. St. Clair County Health Department joins communities around the nation in celebration of the critical role vaccinations play in protecting the health of our children, families, and communities.

When fully immunized, infants in the United States are protected against 14 preventable diseases. Vaccines are especially important for infants. Some of the diseases immunizations protect against can be dangerous for children under the age of two. It is important to follow the recommended immunization schedule to protect infants and children by providing immunity early in life, before they are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), among children born during 1994–2016, vaccination will prevent an estimated 381 million illnesses, 24.5 million hospitalizations, and 855,000 deaths over the course of their lifetimes.

Diseases such as mumps, whooping cough and measles may seem like diseases of the past; however, children can still get and spread these diseases. Protecting children from these diseases is the responsibility of parents, physicians and public health providers.

Parents/caregivers not certain of their children's immunization status can contact the Health Department or their health care provider. For more information call (810) 987-5300. Follow us on social media @scchdmi. Additional information can be found at Vaccinateme.info or ivaccinate.org.

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