



MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Tom Schlueter (630) 444-3098
(630) 417-9729 cell

Vaccines keep children safe from serious diseases

The Kane County Health Department wants residents to know that approximately one million children in the U.S. are not fully immunized by two years old. The week of April 19 – 26 is National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). This is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from 14 different vaccine-preventable diseases. In the past, millions of children have died of infectious diseases that now can be prevented with vaccination. Thanks to vaccines, most diseases prevented by vaccines are no longer common in this country.

“Vaccination is one of the best things you can do to protect your children. Make sure your children are protected by getting all of their childhood vaccines before they are two years old,” Health Department Executive Director Paul Kuehnert said. “Don’t wait until a child goes to school to catch up on vaccinations—your baby is vulnerable without the recommended immunizations. Older brothers and sisters, relatives, or even a trip to the grocery store can expose an infant to disease.”

Vaccines keep children safe from serious diseases like mumps, whooping cough, and measles which are still a threat today. While the U.S. currently has record, or near record, low cases of vaccine-preventable diseases, the viruses and bacteria that cause them still exist. We have seen resurgence of whooping cough (also called pertussis) over the past few years. In 2006, there were over 15,000 cases of whooping cough reported nationally and 46 of those were Kane County residents. Even diseases that have been eliminated in this country, such as polio, are only a plane ride away.

(MORE)

The following vaccinations are recommended by age two and can be given over five visits to a doctor or clinic:

- 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis vaccine (DTaP)
- 3-4 doses of Hib vaccine (depending on the brand used)
- 4 doses of pneumococcal vaccine
- 3 doses of polio vaccine
- 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine
- 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine
- 1 dose of measles, mumps & rubella vaccine (MMR)
- 3 doses of rotavirus vaccine
- 1 dose of varicella vaccine
- 2-3 doses of influenza vaccine (6 months and older) (number of doses depends on child's birthday)

Ask your doctor or nurse if your baby is up-to-date on his/her immunizations or call the Kane County Health Department Bee Wise Immunization line at (630) 264-7665 or (866) 233-9493 to schedule an appointment.

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