



## WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

### NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Stacy Schweitzer (512) 943-3645

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **National Infant Immunization Week – Is Your Child Protected?**

**April 6, 2011** (Williamson County) –

National Infant Immunization Week is April 23-April 30. The best way to celebrate this event is to make sure our little ones start their vaccinations on time and stay up-to-date on all their shots. For pertussis (whooping cough) and diseases caused by *Haemophilus influenzae type b* it is critical that babies start their vaccinations on time to reduce the risk of severe illness. Adults can protect babies by staying up-to-date on their immunizations as well. By staying current, immunized adults can form a protective “cocoon” around our babies against diseases like flu and whooping cough.

Although we rarely see diseases like measles, polio, and diphtheria in the United States because of successful vaccination programs, these diseases are literally a plane ride away. Twenty-four states were recently put on alert because a traveler infected with measles passed through four U. S. airports. Worldwide, thanks to vaccination, measles deaths have declined from an estimated 773,000 in 2000 to 164,000 in 2008. Despite this success, measles cases continue to be reported in the United States. Massachusetts, Minnesota, Washington, California and Pennsylvania have all reported cases in 2011. We can't afford to let our guard down. Our little ones can't receive their MMR (Mumps, Measles, Rubella) vaccine until the age of one. It is important to make sure children have their one year well visit and get their first MMR vaccination on time.

If your child is in need of immunizations, including flu (no, it's not too late!) we encourage you to call your physician and make an appointment. If you find it difficult to locate or afford immunizations please call the WCCHD Public Health Center nearest you to schedule an appointment or get the times for our “walk in” immunization clinics (Taylor 238-2121, Round Rock 248-3257, Cedar Park 260-4240, Georgetown 943-3640).

To see if you or a loved one are in need of vaccination, go to the following link <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4036.pdf> and answer a few simple questions. Keeping our community's vaccination coverage high is still the most effective way to prevent outbreaks and limit their size and severity when they occur.

For more information on immunizations go to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/default.shtm>. To learn more about WCCHD immunization clinic hours or other available programs visit *your public health department* at [www.wcchd.org](http://www.wcchd.org).