



WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Infant Immunization Week – Recent Outbreaks Highlight Need For Parents To Stay Vigilant

April 14, 2010 (Williamson County) –

April 24 – May 1 is National Infant Immunization Week and recent outbreaks in both the United States and Canada help to highlight the fact that parents need to remain alert and informed when it comes to their child’s immunizations. Several vaccine preventable diseases that are rarely seen in the United States, thanks to high immunization rates, are just a plane ride away and that puts everyone, especially infants at risk.

Since last June, there is an ongoing Mumps outbreak on the east coast in New York/New Jersey with over 1,500 cases after an 11 year old traveler brought the disease home. Mumps was once the leading cause of acquired deafness in the world and continues to cause severe complications during outbreaks. Vancouver, Canada is working to contain a measles outbreak and it is believed that travelers and visitors for the Olympics brought in measles viruses. These outbreaks in particular, remind us of the importance of “herd immunity” since the virus is highly contagious and droplets can hang in the air for several hours waiting for just one unprotected person. One person in every 1,000 with measles can have inflammation of the brain that can lead to convulsions, deafness or permanent mental disability.

If your child is in need of immunizations, including H1N1 flu (no, it’s not too late!) we encourage you to call your physician and make an appointment. If you find it difficult to find 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, and Georgetown 943-3640)

As an adult we encourage you to protect our infants by making sure you are up-to-date as well. Williamson County is still experiencing greater than normal pertussis reports and as an adult, you should receive a Tdap vaccine as long as it has been two years since your last Td. We also join the CDC in strongly encouraging anyone with high risk factors for pneumonia including smoking, diabetes and asthma to get the pneumococcal vaccine. Keeping our community’s vaccination coverage high is still the most effective way to prevent outbreaks and limit their size when they occur.

For more information on immunization requirements 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.