WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

September 25, 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adult Immunization Awareness Week  Sept. 25th – Oct 1st

Getting immunized is your best shot at protecting yourself from infectious diseases such as influenza, hepatitis B, and Pertussis (whooping cough). This week is National Adult Immunization Awareness Week, which focuses on the need for adults and adolescents to get the necessary vaccinations to help protect against these and other serious diseases. Vaccines are one of public health’s greatest success stories. Many vaccine preventable diseases are now rare. Continued vaccination is essential in preserving the progress made over the years in reducing the impact of vaccine preventable disease.

Vaccine preventable diseases do not discriminate by age. Adults are often just as susceptible as children to diseases like mumps, measles, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, and influenza. Pertussis (whooping cough) is one of the most significant threats to public health in Williamson County. To protect babies from this disease, the Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) recommends adults receive a tetanus diphtheria booster that includes the pertussis vaccine called Tdap as a one-time replacement for your next booster. It is recommended that you receive this dose immediately instead of waiting until 10 years after your last booster dose. WCCHD offers vaccines to adults that do not have health insurance through the state’s adult safety net program. The vaccines that are available are MMR, Td/Tdap and Hepatitis B.

Ask your doctor what shots you need. For more information, there is a great “self evaluation” questionnaire available at the following link: http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4065.pdf. The CDC is also a great resource for determining what vaccinations are needed when you travel abroad. The link to use is: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.htm. ImmTrac, the Texas State Registry for immunizations, offers a safe and secure way to maintain your entire family’s immunization history. If you would like to register – contact WCCHD for additional information at 512-943-3639 or 512-943-3657. Once you know what you need, don’t wait to vaccinate! Schedule an appointment right away!

To learn more about WCCHD immunization clinic hours or other available programs visit your public health department at www.wcchd.org.

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