WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

April 12, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Infant Immunization Week is April 21st through 28th -
Protecting our children and babies from preventable disease!

Williamson County and Cities Health District officials are urging parents and caregivers to make sure their children’s immunizations are up to date in preparation for National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), April 21st to 28th, 2012. NIIW is the national observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants through vaccination.

The threat of vaccine preventable diseases is real and exists right here in our community. In 2009, there were 40 confirmed Williamson County cases of Pertussis, or whooping cough, in infants less than a year old and in 2010 there were 31 cases in this high risk group. These cases took a significant toll on the patients and their families and prompted a concerted effort on the part of public health, our physicians, hospitals, and schools. Fortunately, there were no deaths associated with these cases in Williamson County. However, the time to protect our children from the consequences of Pertussis and 13 other vaccine preventable diseases, is now.

Texas Vaccines for Children Coordinator, Stacy Schweitzer says, “Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They not only help protect vaccinated individuals, but also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases.” If there is a new baby in your home or one on the way, make sure your entire family’s immunizations are up-to-date. Vaccinated adults and children provide a protective environment around infants, reducing the risk of illness for the baby. If your child is in need of immunizations, including flu, call your physician or a Williamson County Public Health Center (WCCHD) and make an appointment.

The eligibility criterion for Texas Vaccines for Children has changed recently. Call us first, and the staff at the WCCHD Public Health Center nearest you will verify your eligibility, schedule an appointment, or inform you about our “walk in” immunization clinic hours.

- Taylor Public Health Center 512-238-2121
- Round Rock Public Health Center 512-248-3257
- Cedar Park Public Health Center 512-260-4240
- Georgetown Public Health Center 512-943-3640

For more information on immunizations go to http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/default.shtm or to learn more about services at your public health department, visit us at www.wcchd.org.

-30-