



Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health

MEDIA RELEASE

April 25, 2017

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Health Department Celebrates National Infant Immunization Week

(Mason City) — The Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health is celebrating National Infant Immunization Week April 22-29, 2017.

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), we are able to protect our children from 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before the age of two. “The recommended immunization schedule is designed to offer protection early in life,” states Bethany Bjorklund, Immunization Nurse. “Children receive vaccines at an early age due to their increased vulnerability to certain diseases. Without these necessary vaccinations, a young child’s body may not be strong enough to fight these diseases after exposure.”

National Infant Immunization Week is a time to celebrate the achievements our vaccination programs have achieved. The CDC estimates that, among children born in the last 20 years, vaccinations will prevent more than 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths. Beyond saving lives, this reduction in disease means a reduction in the cost of treating these illnesses. This means vaccines are not only lifesaving, but money saving as well. The recommended immunization schedule given to infants and young children in the United States will also prevent over 300 million illnesses over the course of their lifetimes.

The CDC states that the United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply in its history. Their long-standing vaccine safety system ensures that vaccines are as safe as possible.

Normal vaccines a baby/toddler receives in the first two years of life are:

- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis also known as whooping cough)
- Hib (Haemophilus Influenzae Type B)
- Polio
- Hepatitis B
- Pneumococcal
- Rotavirus
- Hepatitis A
- MMR (measles, mumps, reubella)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Influenza (starting at age 6 months)

The Health Department is encouraging parents to review their child’s immunization records to make sure their immunizations are up to date. This includes boosters. Our walk-in immunization clinic is open Monday - Friday from 10:00AM - noon and 12:30 - 4:00PM.

The Health Department provides vaccines for all children including through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program for children through the age of 18 that meet any of the following criteria:

- Child has no health insurance coverage.
- Child is American Indian or Alaskan Native.
- Child is enrolled in Medicaid.
- Child is under-insured. This means the child's health insurance does not cover the cost of immunizations.

We also accept most major insurance companies or private payment.

For more information about the recommended childhood immunization schedule, please visit our website at www.cghealth.com or call our immunization clinic at (641) 421-9321 or speak with your child's healthcare provider.

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