

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE:

**The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency Announces:
April 24-April 30 is National Infant Immunization Awareness Week
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What: April 24-April 30 is National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)

(NIIW) is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to focus on the importance of immunizing infants against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases by age two. By the time your child reaches two years of age they should have been vaccinated against:

Measles	Pneumococcal
Mumps	Hib
Polio	Diphtheria
Chicken Pox	Pertussis
Rubella (German measles)	Tetanus
Hepatitis B	Influenza (flu)

The U.S. will join together with 35 countries in the Western Hemisphere to concurrently promote the need for routine vaccinations for infants and children during the last week in April. It is important to note that:

- Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They not only help protect children and adults from developing serious diseases, they also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious disease.
- Each year, more than 2,000 babies are born **in the tri-county area** that will need to be immunized against twelve diseases before age two.
- Infants and young children are particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases; that is why it is critical that they are protected through immunization.
- Kids who are not immunized increase the chance that others will get a vaccine preventable disease.
- Immunizations are extremely safe thanks to advancements in medical research and ongoing review by doctors, researchers, and public health officials.
- Children are far more likely to be harmed by serious infectious diseases than by immunization.

Additionally in May, the Community Health Agency will offer **Walk-in Immunization day** in all of our clinics (parents cheering, children moaning!). This will be an opportunity for all parents and caregivers to come in check to see if your child's immunizations are up to date. You will also be able to get shots that day, if necessary, without an appointment. Those **walk in clinic days** are as follows:

Coldwater clinic:	570 N. Marshall Rd	May 17	10-6
Hillsdale Clinic:	20 Care Drive –	May 4	9-5
Three Rivers Clinic:	1110 Hill Street	May 9	8-4
Sturgis Clinic:	209 W. Hatch St.	May 10	10-6

As always you can find out more about our services and access our clinic calendars at:

www.bhsj.org