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"Your Local
Health Department"

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Infant Immunization Week

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency has joined local and state health departments nationwide in recognizing the importance of protecting infants and young children from vaccine preventable diseases. This year's National Infant Immunization Week is set for April 22 -29, 2017 and it will be celebrated as part of World Immunization Week, an initiative of the World Health Organization. National Immunization Week was established to promote the benefits of immunizations and improve the health of children 2 years and younger. This week public health and healthcare professionals across the nation will work together to address the importance of vaccinating children on time and protecting them from vaccine preventable disease.

Immunizations are one of the most important things parents can do to protect their children. Infants are not able to protect themselves so getting vaccinations is among one of the safest and most cost effective ways of preventing the spread of infectious diseases. According to the Centers for Disease Control, vaccinations have reduced infant death and disability

caused by preventable diseases in the United States; for example, by reducing Rotavirus hospitalizations by 80% (<https://immunize.org/catg.d/p4037.pdf>). With immunizations, children and infants can now be protected from 14 vaccine preventable diseases before they turn 2 years of age.

During this week, we encourage parents in Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties to get their young children vaccinated on time. We have vaccines that will protect your children against infectious diseases such as measles, diphtheria, small pox, polio and whooping cough. The Branch-Hillsdale St. Joseph Community Health Agency offers immunizations to children ages 0-6 and 7-18 years. To learn more about Childhood Immunizations and our clinic hours, visit our website at www.bhsj.org. To learn more about National Infant Immunization Week, visit <https://ivaccinate.org/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niw/overview.html>.

To receive more information about local health services that can help protect you and your family, visit our webpage at www.bhsj.org and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BHSJWIC/

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