

## NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK

### Power to Protect

April 23, 2019– National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs in promoting healthy communities throughout the United States. Celebrate National Infant Immunization Week, April 27 – May 4, by checking your child’s and your own immunization record and making an appointment to get up-to-date on vaccines.

Immunization saves millions of lives and is widely recognized as one of the world’s most successful and cost-effective health interventions. Yet, there are more than 19 million unvaccinated or under-vaccinated children in the world, putting them at serious risk of potentially fatal diseases.

Robin Walicki, Immunization Coordinator for District Health Department #10 (DHD#10), shares, “It is very important to follow the recommended immunization schedule to protect infants and children by providing immunity early in life, before they are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases.” Vaccines not only help protect us and those we love from getting these diseases but also help prevent spreading diseases to those that are unvaccinated.

The good news is that today children can be protected from 14 serious diseases. Shots may hurt a little, but the diseases they prevent can hurt much more. With help from your health care provider or DHD#10, you can immunize on time and keep your child protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

If you are unsure if your child is up-to-date on vaccinations, please give us a call, and we can pull your child’s records, 888-217-3904 (press option 2).

Remember, DHD#10 can bill most insurances to cover the cost of vaccination. Don’t let the cost of vaccines prevent you from receiving a vaccination. DHD#10 uses a sliding-fee scale for the cost of vaccine administration. Administration fees may be waived by the nurse in cases of financial hardship. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program provides vaccines to children whose parents or guardians may not be able to afford them.

#### **About DHD #10**

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit [www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org).



#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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#### **COUNTIES SERVED:**

Crawford  
Kalkaska  
Lake  
Manistee  
Mason  
Mecosta  
Missaukee  
Newaygo  
Oceana  
Wexford



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