



**District Health
Department #10**
Healthy People, Healthy Communities



PROTECTING CHILDREN AND INFANTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

National Infant Immunization Week

April 17, 2024 – The Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance (NMPHA), in partnership with District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is proudly participating in National Infant Immunization Week during the last week of April. The week highlights the importance of protecting children two years and younger in our community from vaccine-preventable diseases



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COUNTIES SERVED:

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Kalkaska
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the **Northern
Michigan Public
Health Alliance**: 7
local health
departments
advocating for
public health.

“Parents want to strive to make sure their children are healthy and protected,” said Bethanie Dean, DHD#10 Clinical Supervisor. “Giving babies the recommended vaccines is the best way to protect them from serious childhood diseases like whooping cough (pertussis) and measles.”

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), childhood vaccination is important because it helps provide immunity before babies and children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/english/safety-prevention/immunizations/pages/default.aspx>. Many infants and kids are behind on routine vaccinations, which puts them and others at risk of getting a disease.

“Vaccines help protect both individuals and communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases,” said Bethanie Dean, DHD#10 Clinical Supervisor. “Infants and children have developing immune systems that can fight off germs they encounter daily through food, air, or objects. However, some diseases require a more robust immune response to prevent severe illness, so vaccination is key as it’s the time in a child’s development that their immune system learns the most from the vaccine.”

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, along with the AAP, and the American Academy of Family Physicians provides a user-friendly immunization schedule for infants and children: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>. Residents should check the schedule to see when each vaccine or series of shots is recommended for their child.

If a parent believes their child has missed any shots or needs to schedule an appointment, DHD#10 suggests reaching out to their primary care provider or calling DHD#10 at 888-217-3904.

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