

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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National Infant Immunization Week

April 18th-25th 2015

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. This year, NIIW is scheduled to be held April 18-25, 2015.

“Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) has continued to use this week each year to raise awareness about the importance of ensuring all children are fully protected from vaccine preventable diseases through immunization,” states Phyllis Ellis, OCHD Director.

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They not only help protect vaccinated individuals, but also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases. Among children born during 1994-2013, vaccination will prevent an estimated 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations, and 732,000 deaths over the course of their lifetimes.

Most parents choose the safe, proven protection of vaccines. Giving babies the recommended immunizations by age two is the best way to protect them from 14 serious childhood diseases, like whooping cough and measles. The recent outbreak of measles in California highlights the importance of vaccination. Due to low vaccination rates, what should have been an isolated incident spread to 147 people from seven states. Parents are encouraged to talk to their child’s doctor to ensure that their baby is up-to-date on immunizations.

Because of the success of vaccines in preventing disease, parents may not have heard of some of today’s vaccines or the serious diseases they prevent. These diseases can be especially serious for infants and young children. That is why it is 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.

For additional information please contact the Oneida County Health Department Clinic at (315) 798-5747 or ocgov.net.

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