



April 16, 2012

Re: National Infant Immunization Week – April 21-28, 2012

Dear NLA Coalitions and Member Funds,

We know how important it is to provide a safe and healthy environment for children. Keeping children safe from illness can be tough, and no matter how diligent we are about cleaning, sanitizing, and regular hand washing, children may be putting one another at risk for a variety of infectious illnesses, both minor and more serious. However, there are steps parents can take to help decrease the chances their children will contract or spread a serious disease.

The process of immunizing children against vaccine-preventable illnesses typically begins within days of their birth. Vaccinations that prevent serious childhood diseases are given on “schedules” to ensure children receive the right dose of the vaccine at the right time.\* While some vaccines are given only once, others are given on a schedule of two or more doses at specific intervals. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend following these schedules.

Occasionally these vaccination schedules change as the CDC periodically updates its recommendations. Below is a list of the current vaccinations on the CDC’s schedule:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP)
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Influenza
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Pneumococcal
- Polio
- Rotavirus
- Varicella (chicken pox)
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\*You can access the CDC’s childhood vaccination schedule at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)

We encourage everyone to make an appointment with their child’s doctor to ensure your child’s vaccinations are up to date or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Doug Rubbelke, Executive Director