

R. Joseph Ebel, R.S., M.S., M.B.A.  
Health Commissioner



(740) 349-6535  
(740) 349-6474 WIC  
(740) 349-6475 Environmental  
(740) 349-6476 Nursing  
(740) 349-6510 FAX  
[www.lickingcohealth.org](http://www.lickingcohealth.org)

## Licking County Health Department

675 Price Road Newark, Ohio 43055-9546

**PRESS RELEASE: AUGUST 6, 2007**

Contact: Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner or Nancy Hanger R.N., Nursing Director (740) 349-6535

### AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

**Newark, OH, August 6, 2007:** It's that time of year again – time to pack up the kids after a long, hot summer and send them back to school, or off to college. That means it's also the time to make sure their immunizations, and yours, are up to date.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). The goal of NIAM is to increase awareness about immunizations across the life span, from infants to the elderly.

Immunization is one of the most significant public health achievements of the 20th century. Vaccines have eradicated smallpox, eliminated wild poliovirus in the U.S. and significantly reduced the number of cases of measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis and other diseases. But despite these efforts, today tens of thousands of people in the U.S. still die from these and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines offer safe and effective protection from infectious diseases. By staying up-to-date on the recommended vaccines, individuals can protect themselves, their families and friends and their communities from serious, life-threatening infections. Preventing these diseases also reduces time missed from school or work due to illness.

Getting immunized is a lifelong, life-protecting community effort regardless of age, sex, race, ethnic background or country of origin. Recommended vaccinations begin soon after birth and continue throughout life. Being aware of the vaccines that are recommended for infants, children, adolescents, adults of all ages and seniors, and making sure that we receive these immunizations, are critical to protecting ourselves and our communities from disease.

Because children are particularly vulnerable to infection, most vaccines are given during the first five to six years of life. Other immunizations are recommended during adolescent or adult years and, for certain vaccines, booster immunization are recommended throughout life.

Check with your doctor, or call the Licking County Health Department at (740) 349-6535, to make sure that your family's immunizations are up to date.

###