

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

Licking County Health Department

675 Price Road

Newark, OH 43055

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Infant Immunization Week

April 25, 2011

CONTACT: Mary Beth Hagstad, RN, MSN, CNS
mhagstad@lickingcohealth.org
(740) 349-6535

LICKING COUNTY, OHIO - National Infant Immunization Week is April 23 to April 30, 2011. According to Joe Ebel, Licking County Health Commissioner, "National Infant Immunization Week is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases." 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 the entire community by preventing and reducing the spread of disease.

Infants are particularly vulnerable to infectious disease; that is why it is critical to protect them through immunization. Each day nearly 12,000 babies are born in the United States who need to be immunized against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before the age of two. Vaccines are extremely safe and they also reduce costs associated with missed time from work, doctors' visits and hospitalizations.

Parents are encouraged to talk with their healthcare provider to ensure their infant is up-to-date on immunizations. The Licking County Health Department also offers vaccinations. Parents can call (740) 349-6535 to schedule an appointment or to determine where the closest immunization clinic is located. Medicaid covers the cost of childhood immunizations and no one is ever turned away for lack of ability to pay for a vaccine.

For more information, please call (740) 349-6535 or visit www.lickingcohealth.org

###