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News Release

For Immediate Release

National Infant Immunization Week April 24-May 1

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department joins with communities across the country and throughout the world to celebrate National Infant Immunization Week April 24 – May 1, 2010. National Infant Immunization Week highlights the importance of protecting infants from vaccine preventable disease.

Every year in Greene County, over 3,000 babies are born who need to be immunized against 14 preventable diseases before the age of two.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department Westside Public Health Center offers infant immunizations for preventable diseases so that parents can protect their children against serious diseases. Last year the Westside Public Health Center staff provided 6,602 child immunizations that aid in the control of vaccine-preventable disease. Parents may also talk to their healthcare provider to ensure that their infant is up-to-date with immunizations.

Vaccines are one of the most successful public health tools available for preventing disease and death. Vaccines not only protect the infant from developing serious diseases, they also protect the entire community by preventing spread of infectious diseases.

Immunizations are safe and effective. Vaccines are thoroughly tested before being approved for public use and are monitored carefully by doctors, researchers, and public health officials.

“Vaccine-preventable diseases are at an all-time low in the United States. However, these diseases still exist. Vaccination is still necessary to protect everyone from the illness,” says Leslie Davis, Registered Professional Nurse, Immunization Coordinator at the Westside Public Health Center. For more information on immunizations, visit www.springfieldmo.gov/health/immunizations.html. You may also contact Westside Public Health Center at 417-874-1220.

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