



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
&  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

## For Immediate Release

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News media calls to Vic Reato: Media Services Manager at (815)727-5088.

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT URGES PARENTS TO REMEMBER INFANT IMMUNIZATIONS

JOLIET – Will County women will deliver more than 10,000 babies during 2009, and many of the newest area residents will be vulnerable to dangerous, but preventable, infectious diseases.

Nearly 11,000 U.S. babies are born every day, and approximately 20 percent of them will lack sufficient immunization coverage against mumps, measles, polio, whooping cough, and a dozen other life-impacting infectious diseases. The Will County Health Department reminds area parents that every child deserves a healthy start to life. Early immunizations limit the potential for unnecessary disease, disability, and premature death.

Ideally, children should have at least 80 percent of their required and recommended school immunizations during the first two years of life. The National Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), have been working hard to promote early childhood immunizations for more than a decade.

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services partnered with CDC to develop National Infant Immunization Week beginning in 1995. The 2009 infant immunization initiative is scheduled for April 25, 2009 – May 02, 2009, and it's a good time for parents to make sure that babies receive the vaccine protection they need to avoid potential health pitfalls.

“Babies need to visit a doctor or clinic for immunizations multiple times by the age of two for critical protection against diseases that can do them significant harm,” according to Will County Health Department Executive Director, John Cicero. “Immunizations provide an important layer of protection to each child, and they also protect the health of the entire community.”

For more information about National Infant Immunization Week, visit [www.cdc.gov/nip](http://www.cdc.gov/nip). For information about immunization services provided by the Will County Community Health Center, telephone 815-740-8143.

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