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**National Infant Immunization Week Serves as Reminder
to Stay Up to Date with Routine Vaccinations**

Join the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department and communities around the nation in recognizing National Infant Immunization Week April 24-30, 2022. This year, a primary focus of National Infant Immunization Week is to ensure families stay on track for their children's well-child visits and routinely recommended vaccinations.

National Infant Immunization Week is a time to remind and bring attention to the critical role that vaccinations play in protecting the health of our children, families, and communities. Many see vaccine-preventable diseases as a past threat, however, children can still get and spread these diseases. In recent years, Michigan and the nation have seen the return of vaccine-preventable diseases once considered obsolete, such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough.

Before reaching the age of two, immunizations can protect infants and children from [14 vaccine preventable diseases](#). As a result of the pandemic, vaccination rates for Michigan children ages 19 to 36 months have fallen below 70% in more than half of the state, according to February 2021 data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). Below are individual county immunization report cards from December 2021:

- [Benzie County Quarterly Immunization Report Card](#)
- [Leelanau County Quarterly Immunization Report Card](#)

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing infectious diseases and death. Among children born during 1994-2018, vaccination will prevent an estimated 419 million illnesses, 26.8 million hospitalizations, and 936,000 deaths over their lifetimes, according to the [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases](#).

"Our health department continues to make every effort to protect our infants and young children by ensuring they can follow the recommended schedule. Regardless of a client's insurance status, our health department has the recommended vaccines, and no child will be denied needed immunizations if unable to pay," said Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director for the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. "Medical professionals agree that visits for immunizations are essential, and we should work to ensure our families have equitable access to getting recommended vaccinations."

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department continues to offer immunization appointments to protect infants and children in our communities. Clinics are located in Benzonia and Lake Leelanau. For information on financial support programs for immunizations or to schedule an appointment, call 231-882-4409.

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