



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## UP TO DATE ON IMMUNIZATIONS? CELEBRATE!

***Public Health Officials Celebrate Parents and Children Who Are Up to Date;  
Encourage Parents to Immunize Infants and Toddlers***

**WHAT:** San Diego County **public health officials** will **celebrate** the County's near all-time high immunization coverage levels and **encourage parents to immunize infants and toddlers.**

**Parents and dozens of children** will join in the "Up-To-Date? Celebrate!" event, a part of ***National Infant Immunization Week (April 21-28) and Toddler Immunization Month***, which takes place in May. A health fair will immediately follow with games and activities to teach children about immunizations, nutrition, exercise and fitness, hand washing, and various other topics.

The role of WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program staff in assessing immunization records of their clients' kids and referring them for any needed shots also will be highlighted.

**WHO:** **Jean M. Shepard**, Director, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)A  
**Dr. Wilma Wooten**, Interim Public Health Officer, HHS  
**Adrienne Yancey**, Chief, HHS Immunization Branch  
**Carole McCrary**, Program Manager, Scripps Mercy Hospital WIC Program  
**Families and children**

**WHEN:** **THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007 AT 10 A.M.**  
(Health Fair is from 10:30 a.m.-Noon)

**WHERE:** **City Heights Wellness Center**  
**4440 Wightman St.—San Diego**

**WHY:** Surveys indicate vaccination coverage in San Diego County is near all-time high levels, with about 88 percent of local children 19-35 months of age up-to-date on getting four doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis), three doses of polio, and one dose of MMR (mumps, measles, and rubella) vaccines.

Immunizations are among the most successful and cost effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. Communities with high immunization coverage levels tend to experience fewer vaccine-preventable diseases.

*National Infant Immunization Week and Toddler Immunization Month* are annual observances emphasizing the need to fully immunize children age 2 and younger against a number of serious vaccine-preventable diseases.

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