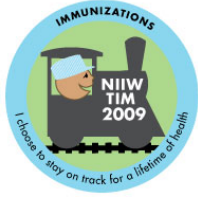


Toddler Immunization Month: May 2009

A Choice to Stay on Track for a Lifetime of Good Health



A choice to vaccinate is a choice to protect infants, children, families and communities from serious vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has [proclaimed](#) May 2009 as “Toddler Immunization Month” (TIM). This annual observance raises awareness about the importance, safety, and benefits of receiving immunizations on-time, starting at birth through the age of two.

The theme for the 2009 California Toddler Immunization Month campaign is "Immunizations- I Choose to Stay on Track for a Lifetime of Good Health".

Toddler Immunization Month is an ideal time for parents to speak with their child’s healthcare provider about the benefits and safety of immunizations, to confirm that their child is up to date with recommended immunizations, and to discuss any questions they have about immunizations and the diseases they prevent.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that infants and toddlers complete a series of immunizations by 18 months of age to protect them against fourteen serious diseases. Recent outbreaks of whooping cough, measles and Hib disease, which have led to hospitalizations and deaths, have reminded us that vaccine-preventable diseases are still around and pose a risk for children and communities. The good news is that we have the safest vaccine supply in history and vaccines are highly effective in preventing vaccine-preventable diseases.

There are many resources available to help parents make the best choice about immunizations for their children and their families. Visit:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm to learn which immunizations are recommended for infants and toddlers.
- The California Department of Public Health’s website at www.getimmunizedca.org to read about recommended immunizations and childcare and school immunization requirements, as well as download a variety of educational materials.
- The California Immunization Coalition’s website at www.immunizeca.org to access a variety of educational materials including the brochure, “Vaccine Safety: 10 Facts for Parents” .
- The *Why I Choose* website at www.whyichoose.org to learn what parents across California are saying about why they choose immunizations to protect their infants, children, families, and communities from serious diseases; to connect with credible information and resources; and to join a parent blog.
- The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Immunization Program’s website at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip to link with a wide variety of educational materials and credible and reliable websites.

For more information and help finding no-cost and low-cost immunizations in Los Angeles County, visit www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip or dial 2-1-1 from your phone.

