

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

For the month of August, the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, your local health department, will be observing National Immunization Awareness Month. The annual campaign theme for 2005 is “Are You Up to Date? Vaccinate!” and it serves as a reminder for persons of all ages of the importance of immunization. With school rapidly approaching (my apologies to you kids out there) you need to be sure that your children have had all of their appropriate shots before they can begin school. If you’re a parent who has kid(s) starting college, you may want to look into the meningococcal vaccine to see if it is recommended by your healthcare provider for protection against meningitis. And adults (no we didn’t forget you!), remember, late this fall the flu season starts all over again.

Before you start rubbing your arm and thinking maybe not... remember vaccines are one of public health’s greatest triumphs. With the exception of safe water, no other health strategy, not even antibiotics, has had such a tremendous effect on reducing disease and improving health. However, vaccine-preventable diseases and deaths still occur in the US, affecting children, adolescents and adults. Recommended vaccinations begin after birth and should continue throughout life. By protecting ourselves and our families with recommended vaccines, we also protect those around us who would otherwise be exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency encourages people of all ages to learn more about the recommended vaccines for their age group, and to make sure that they are up-to-date.

For information, questions on vaccine preventable diseases, or to schedule an appointment call one of our 4 locations

Hillsdale 517-437-7395 Ext. 136 Coldwater 517-279-7395 Ext. 100

Three Rivers 269-273-2161 Ext. 208 Sturgis 269-659-4013 Ext. 121

For specific Immunization information log on to our Web site at

www.bhsj.org

Are you Up-To-Date?