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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **National Infant Immunization Week**

April 24-30, 2023 is National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). National Infant Immunization Week is observed yearly and highlights the importance of protecting children from birth to two years of age from serious childhood diseases.

As a parent, you want to protect your little one from harm. Vaccines, which are among the most worthwhile and successful public health tools, have significantly reduced infant deaths and disability caused by 14 preventable diseases like measles, whooping cough, chickenpox and polio. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), among children born from 1994-2018, vaccinations will prevent an estimated 936,000 early deaths, 8 million hospitalizations, and 419 million illnesses.

GO Health encourages parents to make sure their children are up-to-date on their routine vaccinations. "Children who may have missed or skipped vaccinations may be at an increased risk of diseases, which can be serious," stated Paul Pettit, Public Health Director for Genesee and Orleans County Health Departments (GO Health). "It is important to stay on track with well-child visits and recommended vaccination schedules. Please check with your healthcare provider to make sure your children are up to date on their routine vaccinations."

For more information about vaccines and the diseases they prevent, visit these resources:

- Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule  
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html>
- Vaccines for Your Children <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/>
- The American Academy of Pediatrics' Parenting Website  
<https://www.healthychildren.org>

For more information on GO Health's Immunization Clinics, visit [GOHealthNY.org](https://GOHealthNY.org) You can also contact your respective health department:

- Genesee County- 585-344-2580 x5555 or [Health@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:Health@co.genesee.ny.us)
- Orleans County- 585-589-3278 or [OCPublicHealth@orleanscountyny.gov](mailto:OCPublicHealth@orleanscountyny.gov)

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