

Richard Whitley, MS
Administrator

Tracey D. Green, M.D.
State Health Officer



Contact Name: Martha Framsted, PIO
Phone Number: 775.684.4014
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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

Nevada Continues to See Improvements in Childhood Immunization Rates

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division is pleased to announce continued improvements in the state’s childhood immunization rates. The newly released 2008 US National Immunization Survey (a vaccination coverage survey of children born during January 2005-June 2007) shows that Nevada’s immunization ranking improved from 47th in the nation to 46th for vaccine coverage in 19-35 month-old children.

“This is exciting news,” said Dr. Tracey D. Green, State Health Officer. “While we still have work to do, I’m pleased to see that the tireless efforts of the state’s immunization program, the immunization coalitions, local health departments, our public health partners and health care providers are paying off. We are determined to improve these rates even further by making childhood immunizations a top priority. We firmly believe that we will continue to see improvement now that we have a mandatory reporting statute for the state immunization registry, WebIZ. This statute became effective on July 1, 2009 and requires that all childhood vaccinations be recorded in the state immunization information system.”

Cari Rovig, Nevada Immunization Coalition Executive Director said, “High immunization rates are an important safeguard against the spread of disease. Vaccination against the most common childhood diseases delivers large returns on investment. Every one dollar spent on vaccinations saves \$16.50 in medical costs and indirect costs, such as disability. More importantly, when children are vaccinated, it reduces the chance that they will become ill, which as a mother is one of my major concerns.”

Per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.265, as of July 1, 2009 all providers in Nevada who administer vaccinations to children under 18 years of age must report the data to the Nevada WebIZ program.

For more information about immunizations or the Immunization Program, please go to: <http://health.nv.gov/Immunization.htm>. For information on H1N1, please go to: flu.nv.gov

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4150 Technology Way, Suite 300, Carson City, Nevada 89706
Phone (775) 684-4200, Fax (775) 684-4211
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