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Page: 1 of 1

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION

NEWS RELEASE

Nevada Infant Immunization Week, April 24 – May 1, 2010

Free immunization clinics offered throughout Nevada

Call 211 for clinic locations

(Carson City, NV)— The Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition and the Southern Nevada Immunization Coalition are offering immunization clinics across the state as part of Nevada Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to focus on the importance of immunizing infants against vaccine-preventable diseases by age two.

Children need immunizations at birth, two months, four months, six months, 12 months, 15 months, and at four to six years. In addition, many adolescents are due for vaccines at ages 11-12. Unfortunately, Nevada is among the five states with the lowest vaccination coverage for young children ages 19-35 months. Many factors contribute to these low childhood immunization rates, including:

- Nevada's fast growth and the transient nature of the state's population
- A low ratio of healthcare professionals to the general population
- A lack of parent awareness about immunization benefits

"As community partners we are very pleased to bring this service to children and parents throughout Nevada," said Cari Rovig, statewide executive director of Nevada Immunization Coalition. "Our ultimate goal is to foster a comprehensive, sustainable immunization program for residents of Nevada through education and increased immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases."

This year, free or low-cost clinics will be held at locations throughout Nevada providing access to all required vaccinations for children ages 0 – 18 while supplies last. In addition, H1N1 vaccinations will also be available at most sites for people of all ages. A parent or legal guardian must accompany each child and bring that child's current shot record. A complete schedule of clinics in northern Nevada is available at www.immunizenevada.org and for southern Nevada, <http://www.snincv.org/April%202010.doc>

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About the Nevada Immunization Coalition

The Nevada Immunization Coalition, a partnership of organizations and individuals working together to promote health and fight vaccine preventable diseases, organizes these events. Through these clinics we hope to increase awareness about childhood immunizations, make children's immunizations convenient, and reach our most vulnerable at-risk children. Nurses from across the state will participate, as will a number of businesses and volunteers from the community.



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