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**Administrator**

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**State Health Officer**



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## **NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **Nevada Begins to See Improvements in Childhood Immunization Rates**

*Carson City* – The Nevada State Health Division is pleased to announce improvements in the state’s childhood immunization rates. The newly released US National Immunization Survey (October 2007 – June 2008) shows that Nevada’s immunization ranking improved from 51<sup>st</sup> in the nation to 46<sup>th</sup> for vaccine coverage in 19-35 month-old children.

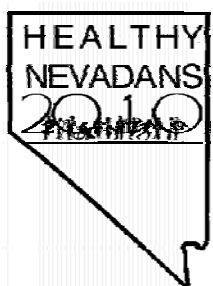
“This is exciting news,” said Dr. Guinan, State Health Officer. “While we still have work to do, I’m pleased to see that the tireless efforts of the state’s immunization program, the immunization coalitions, local health departments, our public health partners and health care providers are paying off. We are determined to improve these rates even further by making childhood immunizations a top priority. Nevada recently received the award for ‘Most Improved Rate of Three Doses of Hepatitis B Vaccine’ from 29% in 2003 to 78% in 2006 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is additional evidence that our efforts to improve immunizations have been successful.”

Immunizations are among the most successful public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Due to systematic programs, smallpox has been eliminated worldwide, and cases of polio, measles, pertussis (whooping cough), and diphtheria are at all-time lows.

Cari Rovig, Nevada Immunization Coalition statewide executive director said, “High vaccination rates are important safeguards against the spread of disease. Vaccination against the most common childhood diseases delivers large returns on investment, saving \$16.50 in medical costs and indirect costs, such as disability, for every one dollar spent on immunization. More importantly, when children are vaccinated, it reduces the chance that they will become ill, which as a mother, is one of my main concerns.”

Another state milestone occurred last month when the State Immunization Program awarded Jobs Peak Pediatrics, Stateline, NV, an award for being the 600<sup>th</sup> WebIZ provider. WebIZ is the immunization registry that is used statewide by the health care provider community.

(MORE)



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**NEVADA STATE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

The Nevada WebIZ Program, administered by the Nevada State Health Division, began in 1992. It is a secure online database that stores immunization records for residents of Nevada. Access to the database is only available to vaccine providers as well as school districts and other agencies needing to verify immunization coverage.

Immunization registries are confidential, computerized information systems that collect vaccination data about children within a geographic area. For health care professionals, registries consolidate a child's immunizations from all doctors into one record, thus providing an accurate and reliable immunization history for any child, whether a new or continuing patient. The registries provide current recommendations and information on new vaccines, facilitate the introduction of new vaccines or changes in the vaccine schedule, and help manage vaccine inventories.

Tami Chartraw, Immunization Program Manager states that the program has focused increased efforts over the past few years to build the infrastructure necessary to support interventions that are needed to increase Nevada's immunization rates.

"One of the most important parts of our strategy is to fully implement and enhance the statewide immunization registry," said Chartraw.

**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>

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