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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sedgwick County Health Department
Observes National Infant Immunization Week (April 22-29, 2006)**

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – The Sedgwick County Health Department is observing National Infant Immunization Week by providing a FREE immunization clinic on Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Clinical Services location at 2716 W. Central.

The theme for this year's National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is "*Love them. Protect them. Immunize them.*" The Sedgwick County Health Department is reflecting this year's NIIW theme by providing a free immunization clinic for children ages 4 and under on April 29th. Participants must be uninsured, must be accompanied by parent/guardian, and must bring their immunization records. A free gas card will be provided for those families that participate. Additionally, free blood lead screenings will also be provided at the immunization clinic.

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to focus on the importance of immunizing infants against vaccine-preventable diseases. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a substantial number of children in the U.S. still are not adequately protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. Every day, 11,000 babies are born in the U.S. who will need to be immunized against diseases before age two.

The Sedgwick County Health Department provides vaccinations against 11 diseases early in a child's life. The vaccinations are: Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping cough), Polio, Haemophilus Influenzae B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR), Varicella, and Pneumococcal Conjugate.

"Vaccines are successful tools to prevent diseases such as polio, chicken pox, and the mumps," said Commission Chairman Ben Sciortino. "Considering the fact that Sedgwick County currently has mumps cases, our efforts to provide a free immunization clinic ensures that no child will needlessly suffer from a vaccine-preventable disease. Vaccines also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases."

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