



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Osceola Community Health Services
Urges Parents to Make Sure Children are Fully Vaccinated
During Upcoming National Infant Immunization Week**

(Sibley, Iowa) – Osceola Community Health Services and the [Iowa Department of Health and Human Services](#) are joining forces to promote National Infant Immunization Week (April 24-29, 2023) and remind parents of the importance of ensuring children – including those age 2 years and under – stay up to date on checkups and routine vaccinations.

“Vaccinating on time and following [the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) immunization schedule](#) and attending regular well-child visits provide the best protection against serious infant and childhood illness such as, measles, polio, pertussis (whooping cough) and influenza,” said Pam Juber, Director of Public Health in Osceola County. “For families that may have fallen behind schedule, National Infant Immunization Week is a great reminder to get back on track.”

According to Iowa’s Immunization Program, 70.9 percent of children in the state received all recommended vaccine doses by age 24 months in 2022—a decrease of 0.1 percent from 2021 and the lowest rate since 2017.¹ This means a large portion of Iowa children are not protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

“We are still seeing consequences from the COVID-19 pandemic, including some children being behind on recommended immunizations,” said Pam Juber. “Now is the time for parents to make an appointment with their child’s healthcare provider and discuss routine vaccines.” said Pam Juber.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website offers [a free and downloadable parent-friendly schedule of recommended vaccinations for infants and children](#).

Sources:

1. [2022 Childhood Immunizations Data Summary](#), Iowa Department of Health and Human Services