MESA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Working Together for a Healthy Community

NEWS RELEASE

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Local Agency Joins Organizations Across the Country In Observing National Infant Immunization Week

Love Them. Protect Them. Immunize Them.

Mesa County, CO--- Each year, thousands of children become ill from diseases that could have been prevented by basic childhood immunizations. Countless more miss time from childcare and school because they are under-immunized.

During the week of April 21 – 28, 2012 the Mesa County Health Department will observe National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiative designed to raise awareness about the importance of childhood immunizations.

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They not only help protect vaccinated individuals, but also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases.

"We are proud to participate in creating awareness in our community about the importance of childhood vaccinations," said Jeff Kuhr, Director of Mesa County Health Department. "Childhood vaccinations are one of the best ways for parents to protect their children against vaccine-preventable diseases," added Kuhr.

Infants are particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases; that is why it is critical to protect them through immunization. Each day, nearly 12,000 babies are born in the United States, and all of them will need to be immunized against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before age two.

For more information about National Infant Immunization Week or childhood vaccinations please visit http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines and www.health.mesacounty.us or call the Mesa County Health Department at 248-6900.

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