



NEWS RELEASE Mobile County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Infant Immunization Week
Love them. Protect them. Immunize them.



April 24–May 1, 2010

National Infant Immunization Week is April 24-May 1

With infant vaccination rates on the decline in Mobile County, National Infant Immunization Week, which is April 24 – May 1, should take on even more significance this year.

National Immunization Survey results for Alabama show that immunization rates among Alabama Department of Public Health clients 19 to 35 months have been declining. The survey shows that the rate statewide in 2006 was 79 percent. In 2009, it was 60 percent. In Mobile County in 2006, the rate was 76 percent. In 2009, it was 57 percent. The highest statewide rate recorded since the annual survey began in 1994 was in 1997 when it reached 87.5 percent.

According to Dr. Bert Eichold, Health Officer, infants are particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases, and that is why it is critical to protect them through immunization.

“Immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious diseases,” he says. “They are extremely safe, and we strongly encourage parents to talk to their healthcare provider to ensure that their infant is up-to-date on immunizations.”

Eichold also says immunizations not only help protect vaccinated individuals but they also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases. And, he says, immunizations reduce the costs associated with missed time from work, doctor visits, and hospitalizations.

For more information about childhood vaccinations, go to www.MobileCountyHealth.org and click on the Immunizations tab on the left side of the screen, or call 690-8821.

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