



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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I-3 IMMUNIZATION COALITION TO CELEBRATE LOCAL SUCCESSES *County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Horn to Address Meeting*

Immunizations help protect countless children and adults every day in San Diego County, but there are still occasional outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as whooping cough (pertussis). To celebrate the continuing successes of immunizations and plan new efforts, the Immunization Initiative (I-3) coalition will meet on April 26. The I-3 coalition is comprised of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) and more than 100 local public and private community-based organizations and providers.

"This coalition is a great example of what public-private partnerships can do," said Bill Horn, Chairman of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. "Every day, coalition partners contribute to the health of our children and our community. I'm proud to help recognize and reward their efforts."

"The I-3 partners have accomplished so much during the past decade, raising immunization rates and awareness of the importance of immunization, too," said Nancy Bowen, M.D., San Diego County Public Health Officer. "And it's due to their hard work and dedication to working together that we have accomplished great things."

The meeting will be held from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, at the Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street in San Diego. Awards will be presented to both public and private immunization providers for their efforts in protecting the children of our community. There will be remarks by Chairman Horn, HHS Director Jean Shepard, and Dr. Bowen. The group will also hear about the latest vaccines against pertussis and other diseases and discuss plans for immunization and educational efforts.

The meeting occurs during National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) and Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA), and just prior to Toddler Immunization Month. NIIW/TIM and VWA are held annually to help raise awareness of the importance of childhood immunizations in protecting children's health. This year's statewide theme is "Community Immunity," because children who are immunized are protected from many diseases, and therefore are much less likely to spread those diseases to others. The whole community benefits from protecting children through immunization.

For more information about immunization and the diseases it protects against, please visit the website at www.immunization-sd.org.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Chairman Horn, HHS Director Jean Shepard and Dr. Bowen will be available for media interviews during a break in the forum at approximately 2 p.m.)

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