



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK—STAY ON TRACK FOR HEALTH *Special Event for Kids at SD Model Railroad Museum Emphasizes Importance of Getting Vaccinated*

Local health officials want to make sure parents and their kids get on track and stay on track with immunizations.

“Getting all the immunizations your children need, on schedule, is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your children from diseases like measles, chicken pox and whooping cough,” said Chairman Greg Cox, San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

“The recent outbreaks of measles and chicken pox among children who were not immunized, or had only one dose of vaccine make clear the importance of getting immunized,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer.

Immunizations: Stay On Track For A Lifetime Of Good Health! is the theme of the 2008 National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) and Toddler Immunization Month (TIM) observances, which are held annually to emphasize the need to fully immunize children age 2 and younger against a number of vaccine-preventable diseases. This year, NIIW is being celebrated the week of April 19-26, 2008, and TIM the month of May.

Locally, a special kids' event celebrating NIIW will be held on **Tuesday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park. Parents may bring their children's "yellow card" (immunization record) to have it checked for needed immunizations. Also, there will be reading of immunization books to children, and goodie bags with immunization educational materials for the kids. Children may have their photos taken posing as an engineer in a poster representing a train. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors will issue a proclamation in support of NIIW in San Diego County.

Immunizations are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. High immunization coverage levels translate into fewer vaccine-preventable diseases experienced in a community.

For more information on immunizations and the diseases they prevent, contact your health care provider. You can also visit the HHS Immunizations Web site at www.sdiz.org. To check your child's immunization record with a nurse, have the record in hand and call the Shots Line toll free at (888) 692-2575 weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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