

# PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT



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## Portage County Health Department reminds parents to Immunize Infants On Time, Every Time

Communities across the country will celebrate National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) April 21-28, 2012. NIIW is an annual observance emphasizing the need to fully immunize children ages two years and younger against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases.

“It’s never too early to start protecting your child from infectious diseases,” said Rosemary Ferraro, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health Department. Choosing to delay or avoid immunizations can lead to devastating and heartbreaking consequences.”

This year’s theme: ‘Immunizations. On time. Every time.’ reminds parents and caregivers that children need a series of vaccinations to be fully protected from potentially deadly diseases. Infants who are not immunized, or whose immunizations are delayed, are vulnerable to these diseases.

Parents are often unaware that children are at risk for so many serious diseases. Low levels of disease in the community means that vaccination programs have been successful. Immunizations are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools of all time. However, public health professionals express concern that certain diseases are on the rise because parents choose to avoid or delay immunizations for their children.

“Just because your child is healthy now doesn’t mean they won’t get sick from a vaccine-preventable disease later. Routine infant and toddler immunizations will protect against serious illness in the future,” Rosemary Ferraro added.

The Portage County Health Department has a child immunization clinic every Wednesday from 8:00am-12:00 noon. This is a walk-in clinic, no appointment necessary. Vaccines are \$10 a shot, or FREE to those who cannot pay. All types of Medicaid are accepted. The nursing clinic is located at 449 South Meridian Street, Ravenna, across from WIC.

For more information, visit the Portage County Health Department website at <http://www.co.portage.oh.us/healthdepartment.htm>.