

National Infant Immunization Week

(KTNC)--National Infant Immunization Week is April 16-23, 2016 and a great opportunity to remind parents of the importance of infant immunizations. Vaccines have drastically reduced infant death and disability caused by preventable diseases in the United States. Through immunization, we can now protect infants and children from 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before age two.

One example of the seriousness of vaccine preventable diseases is an increase in measles cases or outbreaks that were reported in 2014. The United States experienced a record number of measles cases, with 667 cases from 27 states reported to the Centers for Disease Control. Even when diseases are rare in the U.S., they can be brought into the country, putting unvaccinated children at risk. That is why it is important to follow the recommended immunization schedule to protect infants and children by providing immunity early in life, before they are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases.

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.

If you're concerned about the cost or availability of immunizations, the Southeast District Health Department offers Immunization Clinics to children and adults who are un-insured or under-insured. For more information about vaccines and helpful links or to find out when Southeast District Health Department is offering immunization clinics in your community, visit [or call 877-777-0424](#).

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