Genesee County Health Department

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PRESS RELEASE

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RE: Pregnancy Immunizations

During pregnancy, parents often think about baby names, nursery colors, and prenatal vitamins, but they should also be thinking about vaccines. Vaccines during pregnancy not only protect the mother from disease during pregnancy, but this protection is passed along to the baby to protect them during their first few months of life. To celebrate the importance of immunizations for people of all ages, and to ensure pregnant women and their families understand the importance of vaccines, the Genesee County Health Department is joining with partners nationwide in recognizing August as National Immunization Awareness Month.

Pertussis, or whooping cough, and Flu can cause very severe illness in infants during the first few months of life, and some babies have died from flu or whooping cough. Babies this young are unable to be vaccinated for these diseases themselves, and passing along antibodies formed during pregnancy is the only way to directly protect babies at this age from disease. Tdap and Flu vaccines are routinely recommended for all pregnant women, and can help protect babies from these diseases during their first few months of life. Babies most often will catch these diseases from their family members or others that care for them. For this reason the Genesee County Health Department stresses those members of the household or extended family to receive Tdap and Flu vaccines and help protect new babies from whooping cough and flu.

The Genesee County Health Department offers Tdap and Flu vaccines to pregnant women and their families at the Burton Health Center. Our walk-in clinics are offered Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am to 11am. Appointments are offered each afternoon 1pm to 4pm, with evening hours being offered by appointment. Please call 810-237-4540 for more information, or request an appointment online at www.gchd.us.