

Mark Valacak, MPH
Health Officer



Gary K. Johnson, MD, MPH
Medical Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 31, 2017

END DATE: August 6, 2017

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RE: **It Is Easy To Think Of Vaccine Preventable Diseases As A Thing Of The Past!**

“It is easy to think of vaccine preventable diseases as ‘a thing of the past’ because most young parents in Genesee County and the United States have never seen the devastating effects that diseases like measles or whooping cough (pertussis) can have on a family or community. The truth is, childhood diseases still exist,” stated Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Mary Baird. Because of this, the Health Department makes it easy and affordable for Genesee County residents to get their children immunized at its Burton Health Clinic, or [at various off-site clinics](#) throughout Genesee County

Since the reported elimination of measles was documented in the U.S. back in 2000 by the CDC, the majority of people who got measles were unvaccinated. “Parents need to think global, and by that I mean, Genesee County is part of the global society,” stated Genesee County Health Department Director and Health Officer, Mark Valacak. For example, measles is still common in many areas of the world including some countries in Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and Africa. “This means travelers coming into Genesee County for business or visiting family can unknowingly bring the disease with them,” stated Valacak. Genesee County Health Department Medical Director Doctor Gary Johnson noted that “The disease will spread into a community where groups of people are unvaccinated.

If parents cannot locate their child’s shot record, or are unsure which immunizations their child needs, the Health Department can answer these questions at the appointment and you can pickup a shot record without an appointment at the Burton Health Clinic for \$2. If you don’t have health insurance to get your child immunized, Health Department staff can help you enroll in a health insurance plan. Genesee County Health Department’s Women Infant Children (WIC) clinics also offer childhood immunizations. Need a ride to the Burton Health Clinic? Take advantage of MTA’s [Ride to Wellness program](#).

Don’t wait until the end of August to get your child immunized for the upcoming school year! The Burton Health Clinic is at 3373 S. Saginaw, Burton. Call to make an afternoon appointment, 810.237.4540 or 810.237.4569. Walk-in service is available, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 to 11 am. If you need an evening appointment, the Burton Clinic is open on Thursday until 6:00 pm. You can also go online at www.gchd.us to request an appointment.

Genesee County Health Department. Your Health. Our Work.

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