



EDDIE A. PEREZ
Mayor

CITY OF HARTFORD

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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CARLOS RIVERA
Director

HARTFORD MARKS NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK 2010 **NEWS AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY**

April 26, 2010 --- Mayor Eddie A. Perez has declared the week of April 24 to May 1, 2010 as Infant Immunization Week 2010 in the City of Hartford.

National Infant Immunization Week is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs in promoting healthy communities. 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.

Infants are particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases; that is why it is critical to protect them through immunization. Each day, nearly 12,000 babies are born in the United States who will need to be immunized against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before age two.

The Hartford Department of Health and Human Services is proud to play a critical part in protecting the children of Hartford through efforts to promote immunization. The Hartford Immunization Action Plan (IAP) focuses on increasing immunization rates and reducing vaccine-preventable diseases among children less than 2 years of age.

Please join us at the “Walk for Shots” on the front steps of City Hall, 550 Main Street.
Thursday, April 29, 2010 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The *Walk for Shots* event will welcome Hartford families, providers and community agencies to promote immunization for all of our children. The opening ceremony will be held at City Hall, followed by a walk to Bushnell Park where everyone will enjoy many activities, including give-aways, informational tables and refreshments.

Mayor Perez stated, “Immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious diseases. I encourage Hartford parents and caregivers to talk to their healthcare provider to ensure that any infant under their care is up-to-date on immunizations.”

“The U.S. has led the world in reducing vaccine-preventable diseases such as smallpox and polio, but some Hartford residents have not completed their child’s immunization schedules. By treating it as a shared responsibility, we can all do our part in protecting the residents of Hartford,” stated Carlos Rivera, Director of the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information, please contact Patricia Ricks-Lopez or Sandra Abella, Hartford Department of Health and Human Services at (860) 757-4820.

