

Immediate Release:
April 26, 2021

GTCHD recognizes National Infant Immunization Week April 24 - May 1

The Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) wants to bring attention to National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), April 24 - May 1. The yearly observance highlights the importance of protecting children two years and younger from vaccine-preventable diseases. This year, in particular, it's critical to ensure that families stay on track for children's routine checkups and recommended vaccinations — even during COVID-19. As the pandemic has caused some infants and children to miss or delay recommended vaccinations.

A [CDC report](#) released in May 2020 found a troubling drop in routine childhood vaccination as a result of families staying at home. CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that children stay on track with their well-child appointments and routine vaccinations even during the pandemic. As in-person learning and play become more common, on-time vaccination is even more urgent to help provide immunity against serious diseases.

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. Vaccines help protect both individuals and communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases. Among children born during 1994-2018, vaccination will prevent an estimated 419 million illnesses, 26.8 million hospitalizations, and 936,000 deaths over their lifetimes.

The GTCHD Department [Immunization Clinic](#) located at 2600 LaFranier Road Traverse City, MI 49686 is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **by appointment only**. To schedule an appointment, please call 231-995-6131. The GTCHD bills all insurances and participates in the Vaccines for Children (VCF) program and will not turn away anyone for inability to pay.

#

Media Contact: Emmy Schumacher, eschumacher@gtcountymi.gov, 231-493-8376