FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH
MORGANTOWN, WV – JULY 25, 2017

The purpose of this observance is to highlight the importance of immunizations, one of the top 10 public health accomplishments of the 20th Century, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

While immunizations have significantly reduced the incidence of many serious infectious diseases, vaccination rates for some diseases are not meeting national public health goals. Everyone needs to be reminded that immunizations aren’t just for children. They are needed throughout our lifetime.

Four messages are central throughout this month:

- Vaccines protect against serious diseases.
- These diseases still exist and outbreaks do occur.
- Vaccines are very safe.
- Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives.

To highlight the importance of immunizations the Monongalia County Health Department (MCHD) will be featuring a different message each week of August on Twitter (@WVMCHD), Facebook (@WVMCHD) and on the website BLOG at WWW.MONCHD.ORG

- Week 1: August 1-6: A healthy start begins with on-time vaccination (babies and young children).
- Week 2: August 7-13: Protect yourself and pass protection onto your baby (pregnant women).
- Week 3: August 14-20: Vaccines are not just for kids (adults).
- Week 4: August 21-27: Ensure a healthy future with vaccines (preteens and teens).

While August Is National Immunization Awareness Month, it is also the month that West Virginia Public School starts. The MCHD nurses would like to remind parents to make sure that their children meet the “West Virginia Immunization Requirements” (http://www.monchd.org/school-immunizations.html).

MONONGALIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
453 VAN VOORHIS ROAD
MORGANTOWN, WV 26505
MCHD nursing can provide immunizations for children (18 years and under) that are uninsured, underinsured, have Medicaid, have CHIP or are an Alaskan Native or American Indian. There is also an immunization program for children 5 years and under available through the MCHD Women, Infants and Children Immunization Coordination Effort (WIC-ICE) regional program for those who are active qualifying WIC participants. Privately insured children need to contact their private physician for immunizations.

For more information about both immunization programs, call MCHD nursing at 304-598-5119 and WIC members can call 800-675-5181.

WIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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