



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SECTION

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Toddler Immunization Month “Immunization. Power to Protect!”

**San Bernardino:** The County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health will proudly launch Toddler Immunization Month (TIM), May, 2013. TIM is an annual observance which highlights the importance of fully immunizing toddlers’ ages 1-3 years old against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Is your toddler up-to-date with his or her immunizations? Now is the perfect time to schedule an appointment with your toddler’s medical provider to see if they are on track with recommended immunizations. Toddlers need timely immunizations to protect themselves and their communities from vaccine-preventable diseases.

“It is never too early to start protecting your child from infectious diseases. Immunizations help prevent diseases and death,” said Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., San Bernardino County Health Officer. “Families, health care professionals and public health officials must work together to help protect the entire community. A decision to immunize your toddler is a decision to protect them and the entire community as well.”

Some of the immunizations that toddlers can receive are hepatitis B, polio and pertussis (whooping cough). Check with your toddler’s medical provider or clinic to find out what immunizations are needed. Immunizing your toddler on time and every time ensures a healthy family.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk to their toddler’s medical provider to ensure that they are on track and up-to-date on immunizations. If your toddler does not have health insurance or is under insured, ask your medical provider or local health department for information about the Vaccines for Children Program which provides vaccines at low-cost. For public health clinic locations, schedules and appointments, call 1-800-722-4777, Monday - Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or visit our website at [www.sbcounty.gov/dph](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph).

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