

# NEWS RELEASE

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## IMMUNIZATION – SAVING LIVES FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada than any other health intervention. National Immunization Week, April 23 – 30 2011, reminds us of the importance of immunizations to preserve the good health of families and communities. Threats posed by infectious diseases, as seen during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, continue to be a significant risk.

Childhood immunizations, though critical, do not provide lifelong immunity against some diseases such as tetanus (lockjaw) and diphtheria. Booster shots are required to maintain immunity. Under-immunized adults are also at risk of contracting very serious diseases and infecting others. As more people are immunized the disease risk for everyone is reduced. Those who travel outside of Canada may require other vaccines and should consult with their health care provider or local travel clinic 6 to 8 weeks before travelling abroad.

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit encourages everyone to take control of their own health and well-being by ensuring that they are immunized against preventable diseases. Protect yourself, your family and your community.

### Quote

“Immunization is recognized as the most cost-effective, proactive approach to protecting the public from diseases like meningitis, mumps, polio and others,” says Andrea McLellan, Manager of the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Program at the Health Unit. “To help people stay on top of their family’s routine immunizations we invite people to come pick up a free Memory Clip this week at Health Unit offices in North Bay and Parry Sound.”

### Quick Facts

- The Canadian Immunization Guide recommends immunization beginning at 2 months of age and continuing through all stages of life to ensure maximum protection.
- According to the World Health Organization, (WHO), immunization saves three million lives each year worldwide. However, almost three million more lives, worldwide, are lost due to diseases that are preventable with existing vaccines.
- Information about Ontario’s publicly funded immunizations can be found online at [www.healthunit.biz](http://www.healthunit.biz)

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