



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

lakecountyohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 11, 2022

County Contact: Jason W. Boyd
440.350.2745
jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov

Commissioners Declare August as National Immunization Awareness Month

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, August 11, 2022—August is National Immunization Month. The goal of this month is to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages.

“Immunizations are an important factor in keeping everyone safe,” said Commissioner John Hamercheck. “It is a necessity that we raise awareness to increase the number of individuals getting vaccinated.”

National Immunization Month is particularly important in 2022, as the global vaccination rate suffered its largest drop in 30 years.

“Vaccinations remain an important prevention measure in public health, and Lake County General Health District is happy to be able to provide routine immunizations to promote health and protect the health of the public,” said Dyan Denmeade, Director of Community Health Services.

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) tracks and reports the percentage of children worldwide who have received specific vaccines. UNICEF’s tracking of children who received three doses of the vaccine for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP3) showed that the percentage dropped from 86% in 2019 to 81% in 2021.

“I am grateful to have these resources available to me and my community,” said Commissioner John Plecnik. “The Lake County General Health District is working hard to keep our community safe and healthy.”

Measles and Polio vaccinations also declined in the same time period. DTP3 and Measles vaccination rates are at their lowest worldwide since 2008. Per UNICEF, a vaccination rate of 94% is required to achieve herd immunity and interrupt disease transmission. The number of children worldwide who received no basic vaccines in 2021 is 18 million, and up from 13 million in 2019.

The most updated Vaccines National Strategic Plan 2021-2025 reviews the data from the previous plans and other data sources. For children born between 1994 and 2013, childhood vaccinations averted 322 million illnesses, prevented 732,000 premature deaths from VPD’s, and saved \$1.38 trillion in costs to society.

“To be up to date on our vaccinations means we are protecting not only ourselves, but each other as well,” said Commissioner Mark Tyler.

The report specifies the differences between adult immunization and childhood immunizations, and reasons for gaps for each. Instability, population displacement, the politicization of vaccines, and the spread of mistrust of science are other factors that have been noted regarding decreasing vaccination rates.

Historically, vaccination has been supported and widely accepted in America. In 1777, vaccination against Smallpox began when George Washington inoculated the Continental Army. In 1800, the first Smallpox vaccine was brought to America from England, allowing Smallpox to be eradicated in the country in 1949. Routine immunization for Smallpox stopped in America in 1972, and Smallpox was globally declared eradicated in 1980. The eradication of Smallpox is still regarded as one of the biggest achievements in international public health.

###

105 Main Street
Building A, Suite 513
Painesville, Ohio 44077
Office: 440-350-2745