



April 24- May 1, 2010 is National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) and the month of May is Toddler Immunization Month (TIM).

The campaign theme, "Immunizations- I Choose to Stay on Track for a Lifetime of Good Health", reminds parents that immunizations protect their children from serious diseases from birth through adulthood.

NIIW and TIM are great times to check with your children's healthcare provider to be sure they have received all of the vaccines that are recommended to prevent diseases like the flu, measles and whooping cough.

When should your infant or toddler receive vaccines?

At 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, 15 months, and 18 months of age.

Vaccines are recommended when your children are most likely to get sick from diseases that can spread easily, like the measles. Nine out of ten people who are exposed to the measles will be infected. And, there were more cases of the measles in California from January – April 2010 than in all of the past year. So, it's especially important that your children are up to date with the vaccines that can protect them from the measles and other diseases that can cause serious health problems.

Don't forget to check with your healthcare provider about any vaccines that your children are due to receive, so you don't risk your children getting a serious disease just because they were vaccinated too late.

Are vaccines safe for your infant or toddler?

Yes! Thanks to a strong safety and monitoring system, you can be confident that vaccines are safe and effective.

Most children who receive vaccines have only mild side effects, like a sore arm or fever, which usually means the vaccine is doing its job of giving the body protection against bad diseases. These side effects usually don't last more than a day or two and are much less serious than the health problems that the diseases that vaccines prevent can cause.

There is no scientific evidence that vaccines cause autism.

Where can your infant or toddler get their vaccines?

Contact your child's regular healthcare provider.

If you don't have a regular healthcare provider or insurance coverage for vaccines, dial 2-1-1 from your phone (Los Angeles County Information Line) or visit www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip for referrals for no-charge or reduced-charge vaccines.

Don't forget to bring your child's Immunization Record (yellow card) to every medical visit.

