PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Infant Immunization Week Urges Parents to 
“Immunize to Stay on Track!”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department will launch National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), April 23 – 30, 2011. Communities throughout California are expected to participate in NIIW by sponsoring activities emphasizing the importance of timely infant, childhood, and adult immunizations.

NIIW is an annual observance emphasizing the need to fully immunize children ages 2 and younger against vaccine-preventable diseases. This year, California is encouraging infant and toddler immunizations with their theme, “Immunize to Stay on Track!” Children and their caregivers need timely immunizations to protect themselves and their community from vaccine-preventable diseases.

“We can now protect children and adults in California from more diseases than ever before,” said Dr. Takashi Wada, County Health Officer and Director of Public Health. “In light of the recent pertussis (whooping cough) epidemic throughout California, we especially encourage parents and caregivers to be immunized against pertussis, which they can pass to their children. Take the time to keep your children and yourself on track with immunizations to ensure a healthy family.”

For more information about immunizations visit the California Department of Public Health Website at www.getimmunizedca.org or call the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Immunization Program at (805) 346-8420.

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