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**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**Monday, August 01, 2005**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*August is National Immunization Awareness Month*  
**Make Sure You and Your Family are  
Up-To-Date on Immunizations**

August is National Immunization Awareness Month, and the Pinellas County Health Department is asking individuals throughout the community to make sure that they and their loved ones are up-to-date on their immunizations.

Vaccines are a key to a healthy life for people of all ages and cultures in our community. The health department is using this opportunity to remind people of the importance of being up-to-date. In August, parents enroll children in school, older students enter college and adults and the health care community prepare for the upcoming influenza season. This makes August a particularly good time to focus community attention on the value of immunization.

In August, the Pinellas County Health Department encourages people of all ages to check their immunization records to make sure that they are up-to-date. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children receive vaccines against diphtheria, influenza, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, polio and others. Adolescents should be vaccinated against influenza, hepatitis A, hepatitis B and meningococcal disease, and others that may have been missed earlier. Those recommended for adults include vaccines against influenza, pneumococcal disease, tetanus and diphtheria.

Before vaccines became available these diseases caused thousands of deaths each year in the US. Because today's vaccines are safe and effective, members of the community can, and should be protected by being up-to-date on their immunizations. For more information about vaccines and which ones are right for you, contact the Pinellas County Health Department or visit the National Partnership for Immunization Web site at [www.partnersforimmunization.org](http://www.partnersforimmunization.org) or the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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*The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of residents and visitors through public and private community efforts.*  
[www.PinellasHealth.com](http://www.PinellasHealth.com)