

Infant immunization is an important step in disease prevention

Oquawka – April 19-26 is National Infant Immunization Week, and Eagle View Community Health System urges all parents to make sure the children in your household are current with all vaccinations.

“Children under age five are especially vulnerable to disease because their immune systems are not as strong as an adult’s,” noted Eagle View Physician’s Assistant Bob Potter. “Children should be immunized against many diseases by age two to insure their protection and the protection of those around them – especially if the child is in day care.”

Eagle View offers immunizations for all ages at their clinics in Oquawka, Stronghurst, and Macomb. Call toll-free 877-350-2385 for more information.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s website, cdc.gov, lists 15 diseases that can be prevented through childhood immunization, including hepatitis A and B, measles, rubella (German measles), mumps, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, and pneumococcal (bacterium that causes bacterial meningitis and blood infections).

The CDC offers vaccination schedules for all ages, including infants, at www.cdc.gov/vaccines. The CDC even offers a “catch-up” schedule for those who may have fallen behind.

The CDC recommends children receive the following vaccinations by age two:

- 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis vaccine (DTaP)
- 3-4 doses of Hib vaccine (depending on the brand used)
- 4 doses of pneumococcal vaccine
- 3 doses of polio vaccine
- 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine
- 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine
- 1 dose of measles, mumps & rubella vaccine (MMR)
- 3 doses of rotavirus vaccine
- 1 dose of varicella vaccine
- 2-3 doses of influenza vaccine (6 months and older) (number of doses depends on child's birthday)

“Because of widespread vaccinations, U.S. citizens no longer fear diseases such as small pox or polio,” Potter noted. “We look forward to the day when we will say the same thing about other childhood diseases.”