



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

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MILWAUKEE TRIPLES IMMUNIZATIONS DURING 2011 CHILD HEALTH WEEK

*City of Milwaukee Health Department and partners give
Milwaukee children a healthy start to the school year*

The City of Milwaukee Health Department in partnership with United Healthcare Community Plan, Children's Community Health Plan, Community Connect, United Way of Greater Milwaukee, the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee, Molina Healthcare and the Dohmen Foundation held Milwaukee's third annual school preparedness campaign last week at health fairs throughout the city, providing a wide range of health services including free immunizations, lead testing and school supplies to assure children a healthy start this school year.

The events, held as part of Milwaukee's Child Health Week, were designed to promote the importance of good health for school-aged children, and to assure access to basic health services for children, including immunizations and lead testing. More than 5,000 attended the events, where more than 3,600 children received services, including 1,927 immunizations. That is an increase of 1,326 over last year's total of 601 immunizations during the same time period.

"We are tremendously pleased with the outcome from last week's efforts," said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. "An immunized child is a healthier child and contributes to a healthier environment for schoolmates and other children in the community. This was a great opportunity for families to make a commitment to good health, and obtain the tools to do so. I'm glad to see so many families took advantage."

Milwaukee has steadily improved vaccination rates since Mayor Tom Barrett made compliance a top priority in 2005. At that time, vaccination rates for Milwaukee students hovered at 64%. Now, 83% of Milwaukee students are in compliance but that still trails the statewide rate of 96%. Many diseases, such as whooping cough and measles, can be prevented by being fully vaccinated, which keeps children healthy and also in school.

Children of families who did not attend the health fairs last week still have the opportunity to obtain immunizations at any of the city's Walk-in Clinics. For more information visit: www.city.milwaukee.gov/health or call 414-286-3521 for locations.

Most Milwaukee Public Schools begin classes on Thursday, September 1.

Think Health. Act Now!