Facts for National Immunization Awareness Month

**FACT:** August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). The goal of NIAM is to increase awareness about immunizations from infants to the elderly.

**FACT:** Vaccines have eradicated smallpox, eliminated wild poliovirus in the United States and significantly reduced the number of cases of measles and other diseases.

**FACT:** Immunization is one of the most effective ways to protect children and adults against many common infectious diseases.

**FACT:** Vaccines are safe, and scientists continually work to make sure they become even safer.

**FACT:** Vaccines are available for these preventable diseases

- Anthrax
- Diphtheria
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib)
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Influenza (Seasonal Flu)
- Measles
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Poliomyelitis (Polio)
- Meningococcal
- Mumps
- Shingles (Herpes Zoster)
- Tetanus (Lockjaw)
- Tuberculosis
- Typhoid Fever
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Rabies Rotavirus
- Pneumococcal
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

**FACT:** Each year, on average, more than 36,000 people die from seasonal flu complications: 90 percent of these deaths are in persons 65 years of age and older.

**FACT:** Each year in the United States, pneumococcal disease accounts for nearly 40,000 cases of bacteremia (bloodstream infection), and several thousand cases of meningitis (inflammation of the tissues and fluids surrounding the brain and spinal cord).

**FACT:** Without immunizations, your child is at greater risk of catching one of the vaccine-preventable diseases.

**FACT:** Most childhood vaccines produce immunity 90 percent to 100 percent of the time.

**FACT:** There are 10 routine childhood vaccines that protect children from the 14 vaccine-preventable diseases:

- DTaP: Protects against Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis
- MMR: Protects against Measles, Mumps & Rubella
- HepA: Protects against Hepatitis A
- HepB: Protects against Hepatitis B
- Hib: Protects against *Haemophilus influenzae* type b
- Flu: Protects against Influenza
- PCV13: Protects against Pneumococcal disease
- Polio: Protects against Polio
- RV: Protects against Rotavirus
- Varicella: Protects against Chickenpox

**FACT:** Pertussis has been on the rise nationally in recent years. In 2010, the U.S. saw 27,550 pertussis cases, representing the highest number of cases since 1959. Thus far, in 2012, nearly 18,000 cases have been reported so far in the U.S. — more than the total number of cases for 2011.

**FACT:** Women of childbearing age should ideally receive Tdap vaccine before they become pregnant. If not, they may receive Tdap vaccination during the third trimester of pregnancy or after giving birth but before leaving the hospital.

**FACT:** Vaccination with Tdap is particularly important for any families with infants or caregivers of infants.

**FACT:** Many infants who get pertussis are infected by older siblings, parents or caregivers who might not even know they have the disease.

**FACT:** CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older get a flu vaccine each year.

**FACT:** Hospitalization rates for flu are high among children, especially those under 1 year.

**FACT:** In the United States, according to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, an estimated 1.25 million people are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and can infect household members and sexual partners.

**FACT:** Almost all reported cases of tetanus occur in persons who either have never been vaccinated or who completed their primary series but have not had a booster vaccination in the past 10 years.

**FACT:** Approximately 20 million Americans are currently infected with human Papillomavirus (HPV). Another 6 million people become newly infected each year. HPV is so common that at least 50% of sexually active men and women get it at some point in their lives according to the CDC, Division of STD Prevention.

**FACT:** Before the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, almost every child in the United States (about 4 million annually) contracted chickenpox.
**FACT:** Mumps in approximately 1 in 10 children can lead to meningitis. Occasionally mumps can also lead to encephalitis, deafness (about 1 in 20,000 children) or death (about 1 in 10,000 children).

**FACT:** Worldwide, there are estimated to be 20 million cases of measles and 197,000 deaths from measles each year.

**FACT:** Measles transmission has been interrupted in the United States through vaccination, but it is still common in many parts of the world, including Europe.

**FACT:** Almost all reported cases of measles in the United States are in unvaccinated persons who either travel abroad or come in to contact with a foreign traveler.

**FACT:** In 2011, Georgia had 178 pertussis cases reported.

**FACT:** Thus far, in 2012, Georgia has had two measles cases reported.