FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: TED KRAFCZYK, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
MONONGALIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TELEPHONE: 304-319-3775 TED.L.KRAFCZYK@WV.GOV

AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH
MORGANTOWN, WV – JULY 31, 2015

The purpose of this observance is to highlight the importance of immunizations, one of the top 10 public health accomplishments of the 20th Century, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

While immunizations have significantly reduced the incidence of many serious infectious diseases, vaccination rates for some diseases are not meeting national public health goals. Everyone needs to be reminded that immunizations aren’t just for children. They are needed throughout our lifetime.

Two messages are central throughout this month:

- Vaccines are an important step in protecting against serious, and sometimes deadly, diseases.
- Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives.

To highlight the importance of immunizations the Monongalia County Health Department (MCHD) will be featuring a different population each week of August on their Twitter (@WVMCHD) and Facebook (@WVMCHD) accounts and on the website at www.monchd.org:

- Week 1: Ensure a healthy future with vaccines (pre-teens and teens to age 18)
- Week 2: Protect yourself and pass protection on to your baby (pregnant women)
- Week 3: Vaccines are not just for kids (adults)
- Week 4: A healthy start begins with on time vaccinations (birth to age 6)

While August Is National Immunization Awareness Month, it is also the month that West Virginia Public School starts. The MCHD nurses would like to remind parents to make sure that their children meet the “West Virginia Immunization Requirements” (http://www.monchd.org/school-immunizations.html).

MCHD nursing can provide immunizations for children (18 years and under) that are uninsured, underinsured, have Medicaid, have CHIP or are an Alaskan Native or American Indian. There is also an immunization program for children 5 years and under available through the MCHD Women, Infants and Children
Immunization Coordination Effort (WIC-ICE) regional program for those who are active qualifying WIC participants. Privately insured children need to contact their private physician for immunizations.

For more information about both immunization programs, call MCHD nursing at 304-598-5119 and WIC members can call 800-675-5181.

Media inquiries or interviews about this event should be directed to Ted Krafczyk, MCHD Public Information Officer, at ted.l.krafczyk@wv.gov or call 304-319-3775.

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