

## Congratulations to All Vaccine Providers

The success of the immunization program in the U.S. is largely due to healthcare professionals who administer vaccines day in and day out. You are an important reason why we can celebrate high infant immunization rates in this country and we have a lot to celebrate as this infographic illustrates: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/20-year-infographic.html>.

A recent survey on parents' attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors regarding vaccines for young children found that 74% of parents trust the vaccine advice of their pediatric health care professionals, including physicians and nurses.

## Celebrate National Infant Immunization Week

[National Infant Immunization Week \(NIIW\) April 16-23, 2016](#) is an opportunity to remember that every vaccine you administer has the potential to save a life.

NIIW is also a great opportunity to congratulate your entire practice—including physicians, nurses, medical assistants, and receptionists for vaccinating children and adults and to show parents that your practice strongly supports vaccination according to the CDC's recommended immunization schedule.

One way to celebrate National Infant Immunization Week is to educate parents and staff about the dangers of the diseases vaccines prevent. While most parents know that vaccines prevent diseases, they have little knowledge of the diseases. This is not surprising as two or three generations have passed since some of these diseases were commonplace. Some parents don't know that several of these diseases can cause death.

[Compelling new research](#) found that helping parents understand the consequences of failing to vaccinate their children (using information that included pictures of a child with measles, a child with mumps, and an infant with rubella) changed people's attitudes positively towards vaccination. To help educate parents and your staff on the risks of these diseases order *Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* cards to use in clinic rooms. There is no charge for these sets of cards with pictures of children with the diseases. Order cards now from [susanm@health.ok.gov](mailto:susanm@health.ok.gov).

Here are some more ideas to help you celebrate NIIW:

- "Launch" the week by having a breakfast or lunch event. Bring copies of CDC's ["Talking with Parents about Vaccines for Infants."](#) Use this opportunity to discuss ways that your entire practice can promote immunizations.
- Give all parents a copy of CDC's *Parent's Guide to Childhood Immunizations*. Order now from [susanm@health.ok.gov](mailto:susanm@health.ok.gov). No charge.

- Decorate your waiting room with balloons, streamers, CDC posters, an NIIW banner, and pass out coloring sheets:
  - [Caterpillar coloring sheet](#)
  - [Giraffe coloring sheet](#)
- Print [fact sheets on vaccine safety and vaccine-preventable diseases](#) and display them in your waiting room or exam rooms:

By making NIIW an event for your entire practice, you can raise awareness about the importance of immunization for protecting children in Oklahoma. Share your best ideas with us at [susanm@health.ok.gov](mailto:susanm@health.ok.gov).

## Two Clinics in Durant Achieve High Childhood Immunization Levels – How They Did It

The 2020 Healthy People Goal for the 7-vaccine childhood series of vaccines is a coverage level of 80% by 19-35 months of age. The 7-vaccine series, often referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series includes 4 doses of DTaP, 3 doses of polio, 1 dose of MMR, 3 doses of Hib, 3 doses of HepB, 1 dose of varicella, and 4 doses of PCV.

Durant Family Medicine Clinic is staffed with Immunization Champions. The clinic has maintained a 100% completion rate for the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series for several consecutive years. The staff indicates that every child is screened for vaccine eligibility prior to the appointment date and again the day of the appointment. At the conclusion of an appointment the immunization schedule is reviewed with the parent and the next set of shots is scheduled to provide the parent with an appointment time. Staff encourages all immunizations due at a visit. The clinic states "It takes a village, to raise a child." Congratulations to Durant Family Medicine Clinic for a job well done!

Family Care Center of Durant has maintained above 80% up-to-date for the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series for three years. This year the clinic's rate is 90% an increase of 23% since 2012 when the rate was 73%! Tracy Myers is the Immunization Champion for the clinic advocating, educating, and encouraging all staff to vaccinate at every opportunity. The front desk staff compares the EMR and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority provider panel with the OSIIS monthly recall list. Once a need for vaccines is established the front desk contacts the parent and schedules the next appointment. The clinic's focus on reducing missed opportunities was also successful; the clinic's missed opportunities rate went from 13% in 2012 to only 5% in 2015 as measured by CoCASA. Moving forward, the clinic has decided to use a declination form as an additional tool to research the refusal of childhood immunizations. Keep up the great work Family Care Center!

Tips for reducing missed opportunities to vaccinate:

- [#1 Complete Records](#)
- [#2 Simultaneous Administration](#)
- [#3 Review Records & Flag Charts](#)
- [#4 Use OSIIS](#)