

Parish Nurse Notes August 2009

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION MONTH

The purpose of immunizations is to prevent disease. Today, children in the United States routinely get vaccines that protect them from 14 diseases. Most of them are now at their lowest levels in history, thanks to years of immunization. If we stopped vaccinating, diseases that are under control would eventually come back to cause epidemics. This has happened in several countries.

Vaccine Precautions: If a child has any moderate or severe illness on the day any vaccine is scheduled, it should probably be delayed until the child has recovered. A mild illness or fever is usually not a reason to delay an immunization.

Recommendations and Guidelines:

Web: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm>

Immunization Trivia

- The word “measles” probably comes from a Latin word meaning “miserable.”
- The reason varicella is called chickenpox has nothing to do with chickens. It got its name because its blisters look like chick peas.
- There is a patron saint of tetanus — Saint Osmund.

Parent's Guide to Childhood Immunizations, Web: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/child-vpd.htm>