

## Newman Memorial Highlights the Immunization Clinic During National Immunization Awareness Month

It's easy to think of diseases like Polio, measles or whooping cough as things of the past. Most young parents in the United States have never seen the devastating effects they can have on a family or community. But the truth is, they still exist.

Many vaccine-preventable diseases are still common in many parts of the world. For example, measles is brought into the United States by unvaccinated travelers who are infected while in other countries. When measles gets into communities of unvaccinated people, outbreaks are more likely to occur.

Vaccines give parents the safe, proven power to protect their children from serious diseases. Parents can provide the best protection by following the recommended immunization schedule – giving their child the vaccines they need, when they need them.

Babies receive vaccinations that help protect them from 14 diseases by age 2. It is very important that babies receive all doses of each vaccine and receive each vaccination on time. After age 2, children are still recommended to receive a yearly flu vaccine. Children are also due for additional doses of some vaccines between [4 and 6 years of age](#). Following the recommended immunization schedule is one of the most important things parents can do to protect their children's health. If a child falls behind the recommended immunizations schedule, vaccines can still be given to "catch-up" the child before adolescence.

Child care facilities, preschool programs, and schools are prone to outbreaks of infectious diseases. Children in these settings can easily spread illnesses to one another due to poor hand washing, not covering their coughs, and other factors such as interacting in crowded environments.

When children are not vaccinated, they are at increased risk for disease and can spread disease to others in their play groups, child care centers, classrooms, and communities – including babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer or other health conditions.

One of the ways that Newman Memorial Hospital serves the community is by offering a walk-in Immunization Clinic with no appointment necessary. It is available Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 4:00 and Friday from 8:30 to noon for infants and children up to 18 years of age. Adult immunizations are also available. For more information or to check and see if your child is up to date, call 580-938-5537.