Baker-Polito Administration Proclams August Immunization Awareness Month

Waltham, Massachusetts – August 8, 2022 – The Baker-Polito Administration has proclaimed August 2022 Immunization Awareness Month to remind Massachusetts’ citizens about the importance of immunization at all ages.

Efforts to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 have led to a decrease in routine preventive medical services, including immunizations. The resulting dangerous decline in immunization during the pandemic has put children and communities at risk for preventable diseases and outbreaks.

While signs of recovery from pandemic-related disruptions to routine vaccination have recently been observed, ensuring immunization services are reinitiated and maintained is essential for protecting individuals and communities. And with the 2022-2023 influenza season approaching, protecting vulnerable populations and reducing burdens on the healthcare system through influenza vaccination will be critical.

The Administration’s proclamation was praised by the Massachusetts Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP). MCAAP president, Mary Beth Miotto, MD, MPH, FAAP, noted, “Pediatricians celebrate this proclamation and appreciate ongoing efforts of the Baker-Polito administration to highlight the important role of maintaining strong childhood immunization rates to the health of all Commonwealth residents. At a time of dropping kindergarten immunization rates nationally, Massachusetts healthcare professionals and child advocates must collaborate to ensure that all families can access reliable vaccine information and child-friendly locations for vaccine administration. This is a great example of how our efforts to keep children up-to-date on recommended vaccines keep the entire community healthy.”

Now in its 28th year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched National Immunization Awareness Month as an annual observance to raise awareness about the importance of immunization at all ages. Massachusetts joins CDC and other states in protecting its citizens against vaccine preventable diseases by supporting a strong and vital immunization program.

The MCAAP is a member organization of over 1,700 pediatricians committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental and social health for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. To this end, the members of the Academy dedicate their efforts and resources.

The Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition (MAIC) is a collaborative partnership dedicated to increasing adult immunization through education, networking, and sharing innovative and best practices. There are currently over 300 members representing local and state public health organizations, community health centers, health insurance plans, pharmacies, physicians, vaccine manufacturers, long-term-care and senior service organizations, consumer advocacy groups, hospitals, home health, and college health services.

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