



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI SUPPORTS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

BALTIMORE, August 31, 2024 — It isn't just back to school season, August was also National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is using this time to share the importance of immunizations for everyone, young and old, to be up to date on recommended vaccines.

Immunizations can help prevent dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases and immunizations aren't just for kids — to stay protected against serious illnesses like the flu, measles, COVID, and pneumonia, adults should get vaccinated too. While vaccines prime your body to fight infection, you cannot catch an illness from the vaccine. If you haven't already done so, check with your physicians about what vaccinations are needed for you and/or your children, especially vaccines that are needed for school. Adults, pregnant women, and teenagers will require different vaccinations than young children. Adults will need a booster shot every 10 years to help protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) and everyone age 6 months and older needs a seasonal flu shot every year. There are now COVID boosters available for those who want them as well.

Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO, states “as students across the state are heading back to school, it is a great time to make sure families are up to date on their recommended vaccinations. Not only will it help keep the students, parents, and teachers safer, but it will also help protect immunocompromised individuals as well as any elderly family members school age children may encounter. Maintaining a recommended vaccine schedule is a safe, effective, and critical step for Marylanders to protect themselves and their communities against infectious diseases.”

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.