



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

Additional Information Contact:

Gene M. Ransom, CEO

Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

MEDCHI SUPPORTS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

BALTIMORE, August 20, 2020 — August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) and MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is using this month to stress the importance of immunizations. It is imperative for everyone, old and young, to be up to date on recommended vaccines.

Immunizations help prevent dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases. It is important to remember that immunizations aren't just for kids — to stay protected against serious illnesses like the flu, measles, and pneumonia, adults need to get vaccinated too. It is also important to remember that while vaccines prime your body to fight infection, you cannot catch an illness from the vaccine.

While we are still in the middle of a public health crisis, it is vital that you and your family are keeping up with routine vaccinations. Neglecting vaccines could cause us to see outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in the US and around the world. Combined with another possible wave of COVID-19, the impact of outbreaks could be devastating for families and the healthcare system at-large.

It is imperative to check with your physician about what vaccinations are needed. For children age 6 or younger, make sure to work with your pediatrician to find out which shots your child needs. Adults, pregnant women, and teenagers should also consult with their doctors as they 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. If you will be traveling find, you should also inquire about which shots you will need to help keep you safe.

MedChi has long advocated for accessibility to vaccinations and has supported numerous vaccine related bills over the years. As part of this support we have collaborated with Atlantic Health Partners for many years in order to help our members strengthen their immunization performance by taking an active role in providing reimbursement guidance, advocacy, and timely updates.

Dr. Michele Manahan, President of MedChi, states “now more than ever, we are all working together to balance the benefits and risks of every action we take regarding our health. Immunizations are a very important part of that equation. Please make sure you talk to your physicians about maximizing your chances of staying healthy.”

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.