

# Public Health Points

York City Bureau of Health

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[www.yorkcity.org](http://www.yorkcity.org)

## National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. The purpose of this observance is to highlight the importance of immunizations, one of the top ten public health accomplishments of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

While immunizations have significantly reduced the incidence of many serious infectious diseases, vaccination rates for some diseases are not meeting national public health goals. And we need to remind people that immunizations aren't just for children. They are needed throughout our lifetime.

During August, each week of the month highlights the importance of immunizations for a different age group:

- Week 1: A Healthy Start (babies from birth to age 2 and pregnant women)
- Week 2: Back to School (children, pre-teens and teens to age 18)
- Week 3: Off to the Future (young adults age 19-26)
- Week 4: Not Just for Kids (adults age 26+)

The National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) has assembled a National Immunization Awareness Month communication toolkit. The toolkit is designed to help public health information officers, immunization program managers, health care professionals, coalitions, advocates and partner organizations work together to communicate about the importance of immunizations. The website for the NPHIC toolkit can be found at: [www.nphic.org/niam](http://www.nphic.org/niam).

Reportable Conditions 2014 York, PA		
Reported Cases	June 2014	Cum.
Animal Bites	10	64
Campylobacter Enteritis	3	3
Chlamydia	49	265
Gonorrhea	11	70
Hepatitis B	1	4
Hepatitis C	6	42
HIV Infection	1	7
Influenza Type A	0	46
Influenza Type B	0	14
Influenza, Not Specified	0	1
Invasive Group A Beta-Strep Disease	0	2
Lyme Disease	0	3
Meningitis – Fungal	1	1
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection	0	30
Varicella	0	1
<b>Total Case Reports</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>553</b>

## West Nile Virus Season is Here

With each passing day the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) announces new findings all across the State of mosquito pools positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). On July 29<sup>th</sup> DEP's most recent finding was WNV positive mosquitoes in the City of York. Seven other boroughs and townships in York County have already been identified this summer with positive samples. Now is the time to take extra caution to prevent exposure to mosquitoes. Steps to be taken can include:

- Eliminate standing water around your home to prevent mosquito breeding.
- Repair tears in window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of our home.
- Use caution when going outdoors during dawn, dusk and early evening hours when mosquito activity peaks.
- Consider applying insect repellent to prevent mosquito bites.
- Visit the State's WNV website at [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us) for more in-depth information and timely updates about WNV in Pennsylvania and locally.
- Contact the York County WNV Program for more information about local efforts to control WNV by calling 840-2375 or visiting their website at <http://extension.psu.edu/york>



## CITY HEALTH BUREAU TO HOLD BACK-TO-SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION CLINICS



Back-to-school season is here. It's time for parents to go shopping for new clothes, to gather school supplies, and to get those back packs out from summer storage. It's also the perfect time to make sure your kids are up-to-date on their vaccines.

To celebrate the importance of immunizations throughout life and to make sure children are protected with all the vaccines they need, the York City Bureau of Health is joining with partners nationwide in recognizing August as National Immunization Awareness Month.

When children are not vaccinated, they are at increased risk for certain infections and can transmit those infections to others at home, in the classroom and in the community, including babies who are too young to be vaccinated and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer and other health conditions. Schools are frequently the sites of infectious disease outbreaks because students can transmit illness to one another as a result of poor hand washing, uncovered coughs, and close surroundings with others.

Children 4 to 6 years of age are due for boosters of four vaccines: DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), chickenpox, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and polio. Starting at 11 or 12, preteens and teens need Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis), meningococcal and HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccines.

The York City Bureau of Health is planning a 2-day, Back-To-School Immunization Clinic for York City children. The clinics will be held on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., and on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The location on both days is the Albert S. Weyer Health Center at 435 W. Philadelphia Street in the City of York.

City children without health insurance coverage or City children on Medicaid but who have no primary care provider are eligible for free vaccines at the Health Bureau. Parents should call the Health Bureau at 815-0910 to make an appointment on one of these two days.

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