Protecting Communities from Vaccine-Preventable Disease

Robert Otto Valdez, Ph.D. MHSA

RWJF Professor,

Family & Community Medicine (HSC) and Economics (UNM)

August

Power to protect

against vaccine-preventable diseases.

- National Immunization Awareness Month
- Vaccines are safe and effective at preventing serious diseases
- Getting vaccinated at recommended times is best
- Vaccine-preventable diseases still a threat.
- Vaccination best protection for individuals and communities

National Immunizat

National Measles Outbreaks

- Measles outbreaks in many countries around the world
 - Highly contagious viral disease causing serious, deadly illness & future risks
- Close to 1200 cases in 30 states largest number infected in decades
- Close-knit communities where children not fully or un-vaccinated
- Vulnerable to vaccine-preventable disease:
 - Not vaccinated
 - Incomplete vaccinated
 - Infants Too young to be vaccinated
 - Frail elderly
 - Immuno-compromised individuals

Vaccine-preventable diseases are still a threat.

Vaccination is the best **protection.**

National Immunizat Awareness Month Vaccines are

safe and effective

Immunizations

at preventing serious diseases.

- Vaccines protect vaccinated individuals
- Vaccinated individuals protect their community
 - "Herd Immunity" protects medically vulnerable community members
 - Infants
 - Elderly
 - Those with weakened immune systems due to other diseases
 - Achieving Herd Immunity requires high percentage of individuals vaccinated
 - Let me illustrate how immunizations work

How Immunizations Work Illustration



Basic Reproduction Number

Disease	Basic Reproduction Number	
Measles	12 - 18	
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	12 - 17	
Mumps	4 - 7	
HIV	2 - 5	
Influenza	2 - 3	Vaccinate
Ebola	1.5 – 2.5	on time.

Getting vaccines at the recommended time is the best way to protect against serious diseases.

> National Immunizat Awareness Month

How Immunizations Work Illustration



Maintaining "Herd Immunity" in New Mexico

Increase Percentage of Children with Complete Vaccinations

- Address Vaccine Hesitancy and Refusal
- Parents want to do the right thing yet, fears remain
 - Fear of the Vaccine replaced Fear of the Deadly Diseases because Vaccines have worked
 - Engage Parents, Reassure parents, Address specific fears, Build Trust
- Ideally on-time before daycare, pre-school and elementary school
- Address outbreaks rapidly
- Exempt only: 1) Serious medical reasons 2) infants

You have power to protect

against vaccine-preventable **diseases.**