

George Latimer County Executive

Sherlita Amler, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health

April 22, 2020

Re: **National Infant Immunization Week April 25- May 2, 2020**  
**“Immunizations: Power to Protect”**

Dear Colleague,

These are unprecedented times. During this public health crisis, healthcare providers like you are on the front lines helping to protect the most vulnerable among us. You are likely handling a higher volume of calls and treating some patients via telemedicine. During this COVID-19 pandemic, while we practice social distancing and work to flatten the curve, it is vital to protect infants from vaccine-preventable diseases. Please keep infants and toddlers to age two up to date on their vaccines to help minimize adverse health outcomes should they be exposed to illnesses for which we currently have no immunizations. For older children, please resume immunizations after the New York State PAUSE concludes.

National Infant Immunization Week celebrates the achievements of immunization programs in promoting healthy communities throughout the United States. You are an important partner in immunizing infants and educating parents and families about the importance of childhood vaccines, and I thank you for your efforts on behalf of Westchester families.

Another way you can help your patients is to encourage their parents and caregivers to ask their own providers what vaccines are right for them and to encourage them to participate in the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS).

During these difficult times, the health department can help families who lack or lose health insurance to access public and private insurance. Please tell your patients' families to contact our Navigators at 995-6350.

Guidance and information on COVID-19, is on the Physician's Page of our website [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health). Here are some helpful resources:

Information for pediatric healthcare providers and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>

Immunization schedule changes during the COVID-19 pandemic and strategies to maintain clinical preventive services  
Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/schedule-changes.html>

Delays in childhood vaccinations could lead to outbreaks, experts warn  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/09/parents-weigh-childrens-immunization-health-against-risk-of-exposure-to-covid-19>

For more information on immunizations, please contact the Westchester County Department of Health Immunization Action Program at (914) 813-5613. For help with your NYSIIS account, contact the NYSIIS Help Desk at 1-866-389-0371 or [nysiishelpdesk@hp.com](mailto:nysiishelpdesk@hp.com). Thank you for your continued partnership. Working together with families, we can help protect the entire community.

Sincerely;

*Sherlita Amler, M.D.*

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Commissioner of Health



National Infant  
Immunization Week

