

George Latimer County Executive

Sherlita Amler, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health

April 20, 2021

Re: **National Infant Immunization Week April 24- May 1, 2021**  
**“Immunizations: Power to Protect”**

Dear Colleague,

This year especially, it is important to assure your infant patients catch up with any immunizations they may have missed due to the pandemic. [A CDC report](#) found a troubling drop in routine childhood vaccinations while families stayed home. With COVID-19 vaccination rates increasing, and schools, daycare and society resuming in-person activities, now is the best time to increase protection of your pediatric patients from 14 vaccine-preventable childhood diseases.

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. Here some helpful resources:

Visit the NYSDOH website for recommendations, free downloads, patient education and training opportunities: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/)

Physicians and healthcare providers are a parent's most trusted resource when it comes to vaccines. You play a critical role in supporting parents in understanding and choosing vaccinations. Find what you need to have a successful vaccination conversation with parents at the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/conversations>

Info on Covid-19 Vaccine for Children

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2021-01/04-COVID-Erbelding.pdf>

Vaccination Recommendations during the COVID-19 Pandemic



<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/schedule-changes.html>

Catch-up immunization schedule for persons aged 4 months–18 years who start late or who are more than 1 month behind

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html>

Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization\* (Age birth through 18 years)

<https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf>

Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Routine Pediatric Vaccine Ordering and Administration

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6919e2.htm>

For more information on immunizations, please contact the Westchester County Department of Health Immunization Action Program at (914) 813-5007. 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**