

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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Health Department Hosts 5th Annual “Best Immunization Practice” Awards

BALTIMORE, MD (May 7, 2008) – The Baltimore City Health Department, Maternal and Child Health Division hosted the 5th Annual “Best Immunization Practice” awards for eight (8) pediatric healthcare practices. The Awards were presented at the Druid Health District Clinic located at 1515 W. North Avenue at 12:30pm this afternoon.

The eight practices that received the awards are Baltimore Medical System at St. Agnes Hospital, Family Health Centers of Baltimore on Calvert Street, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center – Center for Addiction and Pregnancy, Johns Hopkins Health – Harriet Lane Primary Care Center, Kaiser Permanente – City Plaza, Peoples Community Health Center – Greenmount, and Total Healthcare – Larry Young Division Street Health Center and Mondawmin Mall Health Center.

Criteria for the selection included vaccination coverage rates for under three year old children, early adoption of new vaccination schedules with an emphasis on the adolescent Tdap, HPV and meningococcal vaccinations, compliance with the Center for Disease Control “Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization and compliance in reporting to and accessing vaccination records from Baltimore’s Immunization Registry Program.

It is extremely important to note that not only babies need vaccinations, but the whole family needs to be protected. Whooping cough is easily passed from person to person and the cough could last for 3 months. Other diseases like influenza or flu give people a fever, muscle aches and cough. Each year 36,000 Americans die and 226,000 are hospitalized because of flu. There are over 11,000 new cases of cervical cancer each year and most cases are caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV). When infected with meningococcal meningitis, 5-15% of patients die and an additional 10-20% have serious complications such as brain damage.

Vaccines create a circle of protection: they help protect everyone in the family.

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