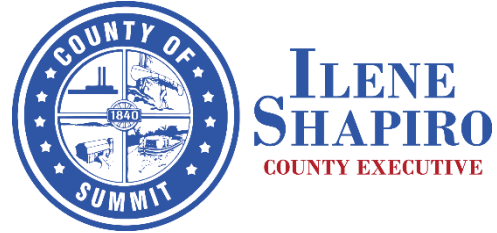


NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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County Executive and Council Support Immunization Awareness Month

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—On Monday, August 5, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro introduced, and Council passed, legislation to recognize August as National Immunization Awareness Month. Celebrated annually, this national awareness campaign highlights the importance of vaccination for people of all ages.

“Immunizations play a critical role in protecting our own personal health and the health of our families and communities,” said Executive Shapiro. “From birth to old age, vaccines keep all of us safe from diseases that once sickened large numbers of people. They are a simple, safe and effective way to eliminate preventable illness and death.”

The most commonly used vaccines have been around for decades, with millions of people receiving them safely every year. Diseases that used to be common in the United States and around the world, including polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, rubella, mumps, tetanus, rotavirus, and others can now be prevented by vaccination. According to the World Health Organization, these vaccines save the lives of up to 3 million people every year. While the United States and the entire world continue to battle the COVID-19 virus, experts believe safe and effective vaccines represent the best chance to fully recover from its devastating health and economic consequences.

“Vaccines have the power to protect us from diseases like measles and polio that not too long caused widespread illness and death. Regular immunization has kept these diseases out of our communities and protected the most vulnerable among us,” said Executive Shapiro. “Today we have the chance to do this with COVID-19. To beat this virus, every person who is able to get a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine should do so.”

Summit County Public Health participates in the Vaccine for Children Program (VFC), which enables SCPH to charge only an administration fee of \$21 per VFC shot. Children through 18 years of age who are Medicaid-eligible or uninsured/under-insured or American Indian or Alaska Native are eligible to receive VFC vaccine. For more information, visit <https://www.scph.org/immunizations> or call 330-375-2772.

SCPH also offers COVID-19 vaccines every Wednesday at its West Market Street office from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

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