

# Hendricks County Health Department

## Environmental Health

355 South Washington Street #210  
Danville, IN 46122  
Phone (317) 745-9217  
Fax (317) 745-9218



## Public Health Nursing

355 South Washington Street #211  
Danville, IN 46122  
Phone (317) 745-9222  
Fax (317) 745-9383

**Public Health**  
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CONTACT: Jenna Prihoda (Meadows)  
(317) 745-9618

## HENDRICKS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AWARDED KRISTEN FORBES TEEN AWARD

*Immunization grant funding increasing vaccination rates for department*

**HENDRICKS COUNTY, IN** – The Indiana Immunization Coalition held its second annual award ceremony for the 2016's Outstanding Practice and High Flyers Award winners on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. At this award ceremony, the Hendricks County Health Department was presented a Kristen Forbes Teen Award. This award is presented to practices in Indiana that have achieved vaccination rates above the state average for 1 Tdap, 1 MCV, and 1 HPV vaccinations for 13-18 year olds.

The Immunization Division of the Indiana State Department of Health receives federal funding through the CDC to collaborate with local county health departments in order for them to promote, administer and assure access to vaccines across the lifespan. The Indiana State Department of Health then distributes funds to local health departments through a competitive grant process. The Hendricks County Health Department has been awarded these funds for 2016 and 2017. This funding helps ensure high, sustainable immunization rates as evidenced by little to no vaccine preventable disease outbreaks.

Regarding immunization rates for the entire county, Hendricks County immunization completion rate in 2013 for children 19-35 months of age was 29% as determined by the Children and Hoosier Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) compared with the state of Indiana which was 47%. In 2015 the rates for Hendricks County and Indiana went up to 51% and 56% respectively. There are ten counties in Indiana with a 2015 completion rate ranging from 72% to 81%. "With continued efforts in promoting vaccination, we hope that Hendricks County will surpass the state average," commented Tamera Brinkman, Director of Public Health Nursing.

The goal of the immunization grant funding is to protect all Hendricks County residents from vaccine-preventable diseases by eliminating barriers that prevent residents from receiving their immunizations. The Hendricks County Health Department has established six objectives and accompanying work plans to achieve this goal. Highlights from the work plans include:

- Development and continuation of county-wide Immunization Advisory Council
- Increasing the percent of children age 19-35 months completing the infant immunization series
- Increasing the percentage of people age 11 to 26 years in Hendricks County with completed HPV vaccine series
- Increasing the percentage of residents on Medicare who received their flu shot

"Our overall goal is to promote vaccines, improve vaccination rates, and implement and promote best practices in regards to immunizations. These efforts are an important part of Hendricks County being

ranked the second healthiest county in Indiana for the fifth year in a row,” explains Anna Lothe, Public Health Education Specialist at the Hendricks County Health Department. “We are grateful for this funding and eager to continue our important work in reducing the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases.”

For more information about vaccines at the Hendricks County Health Department, please contact the Hendricks County Health Department Nursing Division at (317) 745-9222.