
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department News Conference to Release Immunization Waiver Rates

GRAND RAPIDS, MI. - The Kent County Health Department will be taking part in a news conference on Thursday, January 28th, 2016 with an important announcement regarding immunization waivers from 2015. Similar events will be taking place statewide simultaneously.

As you may remember, in January of 2015 Michigan law changed to require any parent who did not wish to vaccinate their child to attend a counseling session prior to obtaining the waiver. This law did not include those seeking a waiver based upon medical contraindications. The rule was aimed at providing parents with information and education about the importance of immunizations from a medically trained public health nurse. If, after the consultation, the parent still wished to not vaccinate their child, they were provided with the state mandated waiver.

Now, the waiver rates have been tabulated. The data shows both the success of the program and helps guide health professionals to areas that still need to be improved.

The data will be released on Thursday morning at a joint news conference that is being sponsored by the Parent Information Network of Michigan.

In attendance from the Kent County Health Department will be Adam London, Administrative Health Officer and Mary Wisinski, Public Health Program Supervisor. Others scheduled to participate are Dr. Susan Wakefield, Dr. Jim Applegate and Carrie Langbo. Langbo is the parent of a 13 year old boy who has a medical condition that does not allow him to be immunized. She will speak on her child's struggle and the importance of others being immunized to protect her son from vaccine preventable diseases.

The News Conference will take place at 10:30 AM, Thursday January 28th, 2016.
421 Fountain St., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, in the Academy of Health Science and Technology Lab at Central High School.

If you have any questions prior to the news conference please feel free to give me a call.

Both Adam London and Mary Wisinski will be available for one on one interviews after the prepared portion of the event.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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