

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 22, 2010

Health District offers Shots 4 Tots immunization clinic, Dec. 1

LAS VEGAS – The Southern Nevada Health District and United Way of Southern Nevada will offer an immunization clinic as part of the Shots 4 Tots program between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 1 at Food 4 Less, 3250 E. Flamingo Road. Childhood immunizations will be available at no cost. For information, contact the health district's immunization clinic, (702) 759-0850 or visit <u>www.SNHD.info</u>.

Parents should bring immunization records. Children with no records will have to begin the immunization sequence from the beginning. Non-custodial adults may accompany a child, however, written consent must be provided to the health district from the parent or guardian at the time of service. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's up-to-date recommended immunization schedule is available on the health district website.

Nevada currently ranks 45th in vaccine coverage rates for children between the ages of 19 months and 36 months according to the 2009 National Immunization Survey, which is an improvement from 47th in the previous study.

The recent California outbreak of pertussis underscores the importance of maintaining immunization rates because as vaccination rates wane, diseases once thought to be rare in the community re-occur. The California pertussis outbreak is the largest in the state in 50 years and includes several deaths among infants.

Recently, several important milestones have been reached in controlling vaccine-preventable diseases among infants and adults worldwide:

- In 2009, many physicians leaving medical school will never see a case of measles.
- In 2007, CDC announced that childhood immunization rates remain at or near record highs.
- In 2005, the CDC announced that rubella is no longer a major health threat to pregnant women or their unborn children, due to high vaccine coverage rates.

Updated information about the Southern Nevada Health District can be found on Facebook <u>www.facebook.com/SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict</u>, on YouTube <u>www.youtube.com/SNHealthDistrict</u> or Twitter : <u>www.twitter.com/SNHDinfo</u>.