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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Las Vegas' JoAnn Rupiper Receives CDC Recognition for Contributions to Childhood Immunizations**

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the CDC Foundation Recognize Rupiper with the Childhood Immunization Award Champion.*

**Las Vegas, Nev. (May 2, 2017)** - JoAnn Rupiper, MPH, BSN, Employee Health Nurse with the Southern Nevada Health District has been named *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion* for her outstanding efforts to promote childhood immunization in Las Vegas, Nevada. Rupiper is recognized for improving vaccine compliance at over 150 child care centers in Las Vegas and for coordinating flu vaccine clinics for Head Start children and staff, keeping Nevada's youngest and most vulnerable residents protected.

“During National Infant Immunization Week in 2016, JoAnn organized numerous immunization activities, ensuring parents with newborns, who were most in need, received immunizations and family resources,” said Immunize Nevada Executive Director Heidi Parker. “It is encouraging to know that JoAnn’s work is being recognized on a national level, providing a path for others to follow throughout the country.”

Each year during [National Infant Immunization Week](#), the CDC Foundation and CDC honor health professionals and community leaders from around the country with the *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion* awards. These awards acknowledge the outstanding efforts of those individuals who strive to ensure that children in their communities are fully immunized against 14 preventable diseases before the age of two.

*CDC Childhood Immunization Champions* are selected from a pool of health professionals, coalition members, community advocates, and other immunization leaders. State Immunization Programs coordinated the nomination process and submitted nominees to the CDC. “Through the *Childhood Immunization Champion* awards, CDC, and Nevada proudly acknowledge JoAnn’s passion, hard work, and commitment to children’s health,” said Parker.

For profiles of other *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion* award winners, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/ImmunizeNevada/>.

**[About National Infant Immunization Week](#)**



National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs in promoting healthy communities throughout the United States. Each year, during NIIW, communities across the U.S. celebrate the *CDC Childhood Immunization Champions*. These award recipients are being recognized for the important contributions they have made to public health through their work in childhood immunization.

Immunize Nevada is widely recognized as Nevada's trusted resource for immunizations and community health for all ages by fostering education and statewide collaboration. Immunize Nevada's vision is healthy communities across Nevada protected from vaccine-preventable disease. For more information, visit [ImmunizeNevada.org](http://ImmunizeNevada.org).

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