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AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), an annual observance held to highlight the importance of vaccinations. NIAM also celebrates the success of the different immunizations that have been created in the 20th century and beyond.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are many debates around the safety of many available vaccinations; however, governments across the world (acting upon the advice of leading scientists and medical professionals) overwhelmingly support immunization schemes.
 - Despite this, the growing voice of the anti-immunization supporters (and some other factors) has led to fewer people becoming vaccinated. The number of people affected by diseases that in some cases had been eliminated from some countries is now rising.
- Vaccines are important for all ages:
 - Babies and Young Kids – Diseases can be spread on the playground, through daycare, and sometimes even in patients' own homes!
 - School-Aged Kids – Back-to-school season means kids need to be up-to-date on their vaccinations for the coming year — and many schools require students to be vaccinated to attend.
 - Preteens & Teens – On top of the regular school vaccinations, there are some other optional vaccinations pre-teens and teens can get to protect them well into their adult life. Plus, certain vaccinations are required for teens heading to college.
 - Pregnant women – Vaccinations protects moms **and** babies. This is especially important as babies' immune systems have not yet been built and cannot receive all necessary vaccinations immediately upon birth. By protecting the mom and surrounding family, you're protecting the baby!
 - Adults – Certain vaccinations only last for a few years before another one is needed (think tetanus shots) and will need to be re-given several times throughout your patients' lifetimes.

TALK TO YOUR PATIENTS

Use NIAM as an opportunity to talk to your patients about receiving the appropriate vaccines.

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), thousands of American adults get sick each year from diseases that could have been prevented if they were up-to-date with their vaccinations.
- Don't be afraid to address concerns about the safety of the vaccinations that are available. Do your research and be prepared with answers that can help alleviate your patients concerns.

- Have an immunization schedule and your patients' medical records on hand to determine what vaccinations your patients need.
- Use the CDC's promotional and education resources to help start the conversation!
- NIAM is trending on Social Media! You and your patients can help raise awareness for NIAM by using #Ivax2protect when sharing vaccine information on your social media accounts.

MORE RESOURCES

These resources from the CDC are available to help guide you when you speak with your patients, especially patients who are unaware of which vaccinations they need, or are wary of vaccinations.

- [For Immunization Partners](#)
- [Awardee Immunization Websites](#)
- [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#)

For further information, you can also check:

- Your state and local health departments' websites
- The American Academy of Pediatrics [Child Vaccination Across America](#) page

Thank you for your continued care for your patients, our members, and for safeguarding the health of the communities we serve.