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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: RoAnn Warden, Public Health Officer, 608-328-9390

## GCPH Recognizes National Immunization Awareness Month

*Get back on track with routine vaccinations.*

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights the importance of getting recommended vaccines. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of life, including people's ability to attend important appointments and receive routine vaccinations. During NIAM, Green County Public Health encourages community members to talk to their doctor, nurse or healthcare provider to ensure they are protected against serious diseases by getting caught up on routine vaccination.

As children head back to school this fall, it's particularly important to make sure they get caught up on missed well-child visits and recommended vaccines. Vaccines help protect kids against illnesses that could make them miss out on important school events, sports, or family gatherings. Parents can check with their child's pediatrician about what vaccines their children need and when.

Adults should be sure to stay up-to-date on vaccinations as well. Adults still need vaccines to protect against whooping cough, flu, pneumonia, shingles and other diseases. Additionally, depending on a person's career, lifestyle, health conditions, or travel plans they may need different vaccines. Adults should talk with their doctor about vaccinations they may need.

Community members can learn more about vaccine schedules and recommended vaccinations on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html>. People can also check their vaccination records on the Wisconsin Immunization Registry: <https://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/immunization>. This registry will show individuals which vaccines they have received, when the vaccines were administered and what vaccines a person is due for.

Green County Public Health offers several adult and childhood immunizations. Any adult 50 years of age and older can get the Shingles vaccine at Green County Public Health. Certain vaccines require individuals to meet eligibility requirements to receive the vaccine at our department. To learn about eligibility or schedule an appointment to get vaccinated please call Green County Public Health at (608) 328-9390. Many vaccines are also available through local healthcare providers and pharmacies.

August is also a critical time for those who are eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and influenza. Everyone 50 years of age and older, as well as people who are immunocompromised, are eligible to get a second COVID-19 vaccine booster dose, and people 5 years of age and older are recommended to get one booster dose. Additionally, everyone 6 months of age and older should get their annual flu shot in August, September, or October. To find a vaccine provider of the COVID-19 vaccine or the flu vaccine go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

Green County Public Health and other local COVID-19 vaccine providers are partnering with the Wisconsin Community Health Empowerment Fund to offer a \$20.00 gas gift card to any individual who completes their COVID-19 vaccine series or receives any COVID-19 vaccine booster dose at any COVID-19 vaccine provider in Green County. Gas cards are available while supplies last, or through October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Visit the Green County Public Health [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more health information and updates from our



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**Green County Public Health**  
gcpublihealth.org  
info@greencountywi.org  
(608)328-9390

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department.