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News Release

For Immediate Release

Tdap response helps protect community health

More than 700 local people and families took the time to protect themselves from tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) during the last week by taking advantage of the recent free Tdap clinics.

Over the course of two clinic days, 766 individuals received the Tdap vaccine from the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. The clinics were intended to help department staff train for a mass clinic situation should the need for one arise in an emergency, such as a flu pandemic, and provide a service to the public at the same time. They were made possible by a federal grant and done in partnership with the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services.

"We had a tremendous response, so we simply want to say 'thank you' to the community for taking public health issues seriously," said Director of Health Kevin Gipson. "We also want to thank the local media for informing the public about the clinics. Immunization efforts work best when the most people are vaccinated. Higher immunization rates help create a blanket of protection across the population that many people never consider. But the effect is real – and it can help save lives."