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News Release

For Immediate Release

Westside Public Health Center celebrates decade of service

The Springfield-Greene County Health department is proud to celebrate 10 years of serving the public at the Westside Public Health Center.

The Westside location, at 660 South Scenic, is the home to the health department's immunization program.

Since opening its doors in 2004, the center has seen more than 101,700 people and administered 180,874 separate immunizations.

While getting a shot can be an unpleasant experience for some, immunizations have made a noticeable impact in public health prevention efforts.

"The reduction in incidence of vaccine-preventable communicable diseases is a major public health achievement in our lifetime, and the Westside Public Health Center continues to contribute to that effort in Greene County," said Cindy Wyman, the Immunization Coordinator at the center. "We provide immunizations for infants, children and adults. The center also provides immunizations for international travelers against diseases that are not common in the United States, following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

Childhood diseases that were once common, such as measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough) and polio are no longer prevalent due to vaccination programs.

According to the CDC, the decade between 2001 and 2010 saw substantial declines in illnesses, hospitalizations, deaths, and health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases.

An economic analysis in 2011 determined that the routine seven-vaccine childhood immunization program in the United States prevents about 20 million cases of disease and 42,000 deaths, and saves about \$13.6 billion in direct costs and nearly \$69 billion in societal costs annually.

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