



Date: April 24, 2019

**FOR RELEASE THE WEEK OF:
Immediate Release**

**Contact: Terry Eimen, PIO Officer
(815)432-2483
teimen@co.iroquois.il.us**

World Immunization Week

World Immunization Week – celebrated in the last week of April – aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. Immunizations save millions of lives every year and are widely recognized as one of the world’s most successful and cost-effective health interventions. Yet, there are still nearly 20 million unvaccinated and under-vaccinated children in the world today.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the number of children immunized in 2017 was the highest ever reported – 116.2 million. Since 2010, 113 countries have introduced new vaccines, and more than 20 million additional children have been vaccinated. Despite these gains, all of the targets for disease elimination – including measles, rubella, and maternal and neonatal tetanus – are behind schedule, and over the last two years the world has seen multiple outbreaks of measles, diphtheria and various other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Parents can find out more about the recommended immunization schedule at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents or call the Iroquois County Public Health Department at 815-432-2483.