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For immediate release:

National Infant Immunization Week Celebration set for April 26

The West Virginia Immunization Program and the West Virginia Immunization Network announce that West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Secretary Martha Yeager Walker will be the featured guest speaker at the National Infant Immunization Week celebration April 26, at Public Employees' Day Care located at 302 Jefferson St., Charleston, from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Secretary Walker will be delivering a proclamation issued by Governor Joe Manchin III signifying the importance of West Virginia's preschool age children getting a healthy start in life by receiving their age appropriate vaccinations starting at birth.

National Infant Immunization Week is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to focus on the importance of immunizing infants against vaccine-preventable diseases by age two.

Since 1994, NIIW has provided an excellent opportunity for local and state health departments, national immunization partners, healthcare providers, and community leaders from across the country to highlight the positive impact of immunization on the lives of infants and children and to call attention to immunization achievements.

The hour-long celebration will feature guests including Dr. Kerry Gateley, medical director of the Kanawha – Charleston Health Department, representing the West Virginia Immunization Network, Jeff Neccuzi, program manager for the West Virginia Immunization Program and "Hurdle the Turtle" West Virginia Immunization Program mascot.

** Photo op, sound byte, & onsite interviews available **