



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Booster Birthday Bash To Provide Free Immunizations To Infants & Young Children

ORLANDO, Fla...The Primary Care Access Network (PCAN), a health care collaboration between Orange County Government and area public and private organizations, recently partnered with the Orange County Health Department (OCHD) and other sponsors to host a "Booster Birthday Bash" on Saturday, July 10. The event will provide free immunizations to infants from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Orlando, located at 3000 South John Young Parkway, in support of the Florida Department of Health's initiative to have 85 percent of infants fully immunized by 2005.

"PCAN is honored to be able to participate in the Booster Birthday Bash," said PCAN Chairman George F. Ellis, M.D. "It is very important to ensure our children are fully protected from fatal, but preventable diseases."

Immunization education materials will be available to parents, as well as general health information from many Orange County health care organizations. To receive immunizations, each participant must have their immunization record with them and be under seven years-of-age. Food will be provided free-of-charge, as well as many games and fun activities for the children to participate in while they wait to receive their immunizations. Other sponsors include Albertson's, Babies "R" Us, Central Florida Immunization Coalition, Children's Medical Services, First Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida Hospital, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck & Co. Inc., StayWell and Toys "R" Us.

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The Booster Birthday Bash is one of the first events this year to provide immunizations to residents; however, OCHD has scheduled immunization events for school-age children, as well as senior citizens, through October 2004. These events are in conjunction with PCAN's public awareness program to educate residents about the importance of immunization.

The Primary Care Access Network is comprised of public and private health care providers committed to improving the access, quality and coordination of health care services to the underinsured in Orange County. By developing an integrated, comprehensive system of primary care centers, PCAN intends to increase primary care capacity and reduce utilization of the local emergency departments by providing "medical homes" and teaching basic first aid to residents of Orange County.