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SUBJECT: WIC Mailing

TO: Regional, State and Local WIC Offices

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Ensuring the health and safety of infants and children is integral to the mission of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Immunizing children against disease is one of the most important ways to keep them healthy. Some of the vaccine-preventable diseases that still circulate in the U.S. include measles, mumps, whooping cough, chickenpox, Hib (a cause of meningitis), and influenza. This year the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting the highest number of measles cases in the U.S. in several decades. WIC's role in helping parents understand the importance of immunizations and ensuring that children are up to date on vaccinations continues to be as important as ever before.

Attached you will find the "Parents' Guide to Immunizations" developed by Every Child By Two (ECBT) to help answer questions WIC parents and staff may have about vaccines. ECBT, a long standing USDA partner, is a nonprofit organization committed to educating families about the importance of timely immunizations and the safety of vaccines. The guide, which brings together resources from the CDC, ECBT, and the Immunization Action Coalition, addresses the importance of immunizations for both children and adults (including pregnant women). Also included are easy-to-read immunization schedules and information on the Vaccines for Children program and immunization registries. The guide is also available for download on the WIC Works Resource System (WWRS) at [wicworks.nal.usda.gov/ mailing.html](http://wicworks.nal.usda.gov/ mailing.html). A Spanish version will be available soon. ECBT welcomes your feedback on the guide and would like to know how you are using it in your clinic. If you would like to give feedback, please visit [www.ecbt.org/parentsguide.htm](http://www.ecbt.org/parentsguide.htm).

Protecting infants and children from consumer products, such as toys, cribs, and household chemicals, that cause unreasonable risks of injury or death is also important to their well-being. Notably, while cribs, bassinets and play yards are the safest places to place your baby to sleep, more than 11 million cribs and numerous bassinets and play yards have been recalled since 2007.

Safety information provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the federal agency responsible for protecting consumers from product hazards found in and around the home, is also included for your use. CPSC has jurisdiction over 15,000 types of products and announces recalls of dangerous products on a weekly basis, including millions of cribs where babies have died. CPSC invites you to join their Neighborhood Safety Network (NSN) – a free program by which you can receive safety information such as the "Safe Sleep" and "A Safer Generation of Cribs" posters included in this mailing. Most CPSC materials are available in Spanish. Please fill out and mail the NSN sign-up card or sign-up online at [www.cpsc.gov/nsn/signup.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/nsn/signup.html). You will start receiving life-saving information to share with the WIC families that you serve.

You can find materials on infant and child health and safety and other related topics on the WWRS at [wicworks.nal.usda.gov](http://wicworks.nal.usda.gov). Let us know what else we can do to help you help WIC! Contact the WWRS team by phone: 301-504-6047, by fax: 301-504-6409, or by email: [wicworks@ars.usda.gov](mailto:wicworks@ars.usda.gov).



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