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Oklahoma HMO shares childhood immunization information

Vaccines protect children from preventable diseases

OKLAHOMA – There are 14 diseases that can be prevented by childhood vaccinations. Before vaccinations were created, thousands of children died each year from these diseases. GlobalHealth is sharing information to encourage Oklahoma parents to vaccinate their children.

“There is a lot of misinformation about vaccines,” said Devin Wilcox, assistant vice president at GlobalHealth. “However, they have been proven to reduce your child’s risk of infection. They also protect those who cannot be vaccinated by surrounding them with people who are. This stops preventable diseases from spreading.”

GlobalHealth is sharing information about the importance of childhood vaccinations.

What is a vaccination? Vaccines are preparations that improve immunity to a disease. Vaccines contain the same germs that cause disease but have been killed or weakened so they do not make you sick. Vaccines cause the immune system to respond as it would to a real infection. Then, the body can recognize and fight the disease in the future.

Benefits. Vaccines give natural immunity without the risk of complications from the disease. There are many vaccine-preventable diseases, such as mumps, polio and chickenpox.

Are vaccinations safe? Vaccines are tested several times before they are approved. They are then regularly checked for side effects like allergic reactions. The U.S. currently has its safest vaccine supply in history. It is more likely to be hurt by the disease a vaccine prevents than the vaccine itself.

Why should my children get vaccinated? You may not see a disease in your community, but your child should still get vaccinated. There have been many cases of measles and whooping cough in the U.S. over the past few years. Vaccinations not only protect your child, they also help prevent the spread of disease to your friends and loved ones, including older adults. It is

important to talk with your primary care physician or pediatrician about the right vaccination schedule for your child.

About GlobalHealth

GlobalHealth is changing health insurance in Oklahoma. As an industry leader, GlobalHealth is an Oklahoma-based health maintenance organization covering individuals in all 77 Oklahoma counties. Working proactively with its members, GlobalHealth engages a personalized management plan to address their specific needs and ensure the best possible health outcomes. GlobalHealth utilizes cutting-edge, predictive data technology as a foundation to deliver improved healthcare as part of its commitment to making health insurance more affordable. Its membership includes state, education and municipal employees, federal employees and individuals who are eligible for Medicare. To learn more, visit www.GlobalHealth.com.

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