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**April 29, 2019**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **Health Director Receives National Recognition for Vaccinations** CDC names Robert Resendes Childhood Immunization Champion for Texas

**EL PASO, Texas** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that Robert Resendes, City of El Paso Public Health Director, has been selected as the Childhood Immunization Champion for the state of Texas. The honor is presented jointly by the CDC and the Association of Immunization Managers to those who go above and beyond to promote or foster childhood immunizations in their communities. Winners are selected based on their leadership, collaboration, innovation, and advocacy in the field. It has been five years since someone in Texas was named a Childhood Immunization Champion.

"This award is a humbling recognition for the hard work put forth not only by our Immunization Program, and partners including hospitals, school nurses, doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, and clinics, but also by the parents in our community who appreciate the importance of vaccination and care enough about their children to protect them from some horrible diseases," Resendes said. "I share this award with my team and staff, other agencies in El Paso and especially the moms and dads who do the right thing in order to make El Paso a healthier community."

The acknowledgment comes as providers across the United States celebrate National Infant Immunization Week, April 27 through May 4. As a part of El Paso's commemoration, the Department of Public Health Immunization Program will be offering **free vaccines on Wednesday May 1, 2019** to Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) eligible infants (birth to 2 years old). TVFC eligibility is as follows:

- Enrolled in Medicaid
- Uninsured: a child who has no health insurance coverage
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Enrolled in CHIP (El Paso Health only)
- Underinsured: a child with no insurance coverage for vaccinations or only partial coverage

Vaccines will be offered on a first come/first served basis at our Ysleta Clinic: 110 Candelaria Road and at our Henderson Clinic: 721 S. Mesa Street on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Hours of operation are from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with the last patients seen at 5:00 p.m. We will see both scheduled patients and walk-ins. For information please contact our appointment line at 915-212-6555.

In addition, Mayor and City Council will issue a proclamation for National Infant Immunization Week at the regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 30. For more information on vaccine schedules visit: [www.EPHealth.com](http://www.EPHealth.com). Information on the award can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/champions/profiles-2019.html>.

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