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Nationwide Childhood Immunization Program!!!

THE PROBLEM: Of the 52 million children 14 years old or younger in the United States, approximately 20 million have not been adequately immunized against childhood diseases, including polio, measles (rubeola), German measles (rubella), diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus. Major epidemics caused by measles, rubella and pertussis have occurred nationwide in the past year.

President Carter, through Joseph A. Califano, Jr., Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, has launched a major national campaign to immunize millions of our nation's children against preventable childhood diseases.

This initiative is to be conducted during the next two years and has two major objectives. The first is to reach approximately 20 million children under the age of 15 who are currently inadequately protected against preventable childhood diseases. The second objective is to establish a permanent system to provide comprehensive immunization services to the three million children born in the United States each year. The goal is to achieve immunity levels of 90% or better.

Success in reaching the objectives of this initiative depends upon the active support of a great number of individuals and organizations concerned with the youth of our country. HEW, through the Public Health Service, funds immunization programs through state health departments, but critical to accomplishing the goals of this initiative is the active participation of all medical care providers.

Cases of measles, rubella, diphtheria, and pertussis have been confirmed in the State of Alaska within the last six months! The potential for outbreaks of these diseases continues!!!

Now is the time to review the immunization status of all patients, **especially pre-schoolers**, identify delinquents, and get them back on schedule!!