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NEWS RELEASE



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Indiana Public Health Nurse Wins ANA Immunity Award For Leadership of Mandatory School Immunization Program

SILVER SPRING, MD – When the state of Indiana issued a mandate to ensure that all middle and high school students were immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases for the 2010-2011 school year, Montgomery County (IN) public health nurse Rebecca Lang, BSN, RNC, knew she would be in demand.

As the only RN in the health department of this small western Indiana county of 38,000, Lang coordinated the immunization of 740 students with over 2,000 Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis), meningococcal and varicella vaccines on the school system's registration day alone, and arranged dozens of other immunization opportunities for students through summer and fall 2010. For those efforts and her leadership at other shot clinics, Lang has been named ANA's Immunity Award winner for March 2011.

ANA grants the national Immunity Award monthly as part of its [Bringing Immunity to Every Community](#) project. ANA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are collaborating on the project, which focuses on maximizing nurses' role in increasing vaccination rates and reducing incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. The project seeks to increase nurses' knowledge and competency in immunization, encourage nurses to be vaccinated, and position nurses as leading advocates for immunization among peers, patients, and the public.

Christine Amidon, RN, BSN, NCSN, a nurse with Crawfordsville Schools Health Services who works with Lang on community health and immunization projects, called the student vaccination initiative a "monumental undertaking. But it was important because there have been outbreaks of these vaccine-preventable diseases. As the person who investigates disease outbreaks in our county, Rebecca is on top of prevention," said Amidon, adding that Lang is viewed as "the local expert on vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases."

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