



Press Release

February 5, 2010

GCHD Opens New WIC and Immunization Site in Dickinson

Galveston County & Cities – The Galveston County Health District (GCHD) will celebrate the opening of a new WIC and Immunization clinic in Dickinson with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, February 16th at 1:30 pm.

The new facility, located at 3411 Gulf Freeway, was relocated from its location of more than 10 years on FM 517 in Dickinson. Along with Health District officials, Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough and Dickinson Mayor Julie Masters will be participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony which is open to the public.

Demand for the WIC program has been increasing over the years, and officials say the new office will accommodate that growth. A portion of the facility will also be an immunization clinic where both childhood and adult immunizations will be given. The two programs have always shared a facility in Dickinson, but the new clinic is more spacious and also offers more parking for those seeking services.

"I am very proud of this beautiful new facility and its prominent location along interstate 45 in Dickinson. Over 3,900 women and children are served by the Dickinson WIC site annually for a total of 26,950 visits, and over 3,500 persons use the Dickinson immunization clinic annually. The new site is expected to serve even more citizens of Dickinson and Galveston County. WIC and immunization services are vital to a community's health," says Dr. Mark Guidry the district's CEO and Health Authority.

WIC, which stands for Women, Infants, and Children, is a nutritional program benefitting qualifying families with education, and benefits for certain foods. The program is designed to safeguard the health of pregnant and nursing women, as well as infants and young children up to the age of five, who might otherwise be at risk for poor health. By receiving these services families can learn and maintain healthy habits, which can benefit them for a lifetime. WIC also provides a positive economic impact in the community through the grocery stores that participate in the program.

To avoid vaccine-preventable diseases, childhood and adult vaccines are offered to the public at low cost in GCHD's immunization clinics. No one is refused services for inability to pay if uninsured or underinsured for immunizations. In addition to the new Dickinson immunization clinic, the district also has immunization clinics in Texas City and Galveston.

For more information on Galveston County Health District immunization activities and WIC services including locations and hours of operation call (409) 938-2456 or visit www.gchd.org.

The Galveston County Health District strives to protect and promote public health for all residents of Galveston County and cities.

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