



## **For Immediate Release**

**March 28, 2011**

### **Recognizing National Public Health Week**

**Galveston County and Cities** – On Thursday, April 7, the Galveston County Health District (GCHD) will observe *National Public Health Week* and *National Immunization Week* by recognizing Public Health Partners, presenting Gold Ribbon Awards to exemplary food service establishments, offering free immunizations, educating the public about its wellness services, and recognizing nearly 100 outstanding volunteers and partners. Events will take place at several locations throughout the day.

As of March 24 Public Health Week proclamations have been issued by the Commissioners Court along with the city of Hitchcock. Additional proclamations are planned from the cities of Bayou Vista, Dickinson, Kemah, La Marque, League City, Jamaica Beach and Texas City. The proclamations outline the services provided by GCHD and the importance of community wellness and public health.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. a public health event will be held at Mall of the Mainland. There will be a variety of health and wellness information provided by both GCHD and community health partners. At 1 p.m. there will be a ceremony recognizing 2011 "Public Health Partners". Activities at Mall of the Mainland will take place in the mall's food court.

In commemoration of vaccines being one of the greatest accomplishments in public health, free vaccinations will be available during the Mall of the Mainland event as well as at the Texas City Immunization Clinic, 2000 Texas Avenue; and the Galveston Immunization Clinic, 4700 Broadway. For both Texas City and Galveston immunizations will be available from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"This year, GCHD will educate the public about the wellness services it provides," says Dr. Mark Guidry, CEO of the Galveston County Health District. "Wellness

improves well being, quality of life, and reduces the need for sick care and related costs. We also will take time to recognize our partners, volunteers, public and private organizations that play a significant role in improving the public's health."

Finally, at 6:30 p.m., "Gold Ribbon" awards for excellent food service operators will be presented during a ceremony at the Wayne Johnson Community Center in La Marque. Galveston County Judge Mark Henry will be on hand to congratulate the 2011 award recipients. The annual awards ceremony was initiated 15 years ago to identify food service establishments that show exemplary compliance with the Texas Food Establishment Rules as enforced by the Galveston County Health District's Consumer Health sanitarians that annually inspect more than 1,500 licensed food service operations. Food Service inspection scores and a complete list of 2011 Gold Ribbon Award winners can be found on the District's web site at [www.gchd.org](http://www.gchd.org).

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