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**NEWS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ANA Spotlights Importance of Immunization during ‘Vaccination Week’**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The American Nurses Association (ANA) has launched a new immunization education program aimed at helping registered nurses discuss the benefits of vaccines with patients, families and fellow health care workers, and honored a registered nurse with an Immunity Award for dedication to increasing vaccination rates in marking National Influenza Vaccination Week, Dec. 5-11.

ANA and Every Child by Two, which advocates for timely immunization of the nation’s children by age two, partnered to produce an [educational webcast](#) on vaccine safety, nurses’ role in immunization promotion, and risk communications. The online production available to nurses nationwide for continuing education credit includes role-play video vignettes showing a nurse listening to and addressing a patient’s concerns about vaccines in a clinical setting, and a nurse presenting a case for the importance of influenza vaccination to a peer.

“Immunization has to be about more than following a checklist and getting out the needle,” said ANA President Karen Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN. “Adults and kids have concerns, questions and fears, and that’s understandable. We as nurses need to be able to explain how immunization protects not only their health, but the whole community’s health, and support what we say with scientific evidence.”

The course and award are components of the [ANA Bringing Immunity to Every Community](#) project, a collaborative initiative with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that focuses on maximizing nurses’ role in increasing vaccination rates and reducing incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. The two-year 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.

**MORE...**

## **ANA helps nurses promote immunization during Vaccination Week/ Page 2...**

Commemorating the Dec. 8 “Employee Health Day” of National Influenza Vaccination Week, ANA granted the ANA Immunity Award to Mary Beth Koslap-Petraco, DNP, PNP-BC, CPNP, of Amityville, NY, Suffolk County (Long Island) coordinator for child health, who has been both a local and national leader on immunization and children’s health issues. Locally, Dr. Koslap-Petraco implemented an influenza immunization program at Suffolk County’s health department that increased the employee vaccination rate from less than 30 percent to more than 90 percent. The program was presented as a case study at a CDC National Immunization Conference, and elements were incorporated into CDC’s recommendations for developing influenza immunization programs for health care workers.

A pediatric nurse practitioner with more than 40 years’ experience in health care, Dr. Koslap-Petraco has served on the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, which advises the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on immunization policy, and on the Advisory Board for the Immunization Action Coalition, which provides educational materials for health professionals. She has authored articles in peer-reviewed health journals on immunization, helped develop an educational workbook for pediatric nurse practitioners on childhood immunization, and serves as the online advice nurse for Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases.

RNs can apply for the monthly ANA Immunity Award, either through self-nomination or nomination by a peer, online through Bringing Immunity to Every Community’s website, [www.ANAimmunize.org](http://www.ANAimmunize.org), a one-stop shop for resources nurses need to be competent, educated advocates for immunizations.

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*The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations, its organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.*