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WV Education Official Receives CDC Recognition
Childhood Immunization Champion Award goes to school health official

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Rebecca King, a State School Nurse Consultant and Section 504 Coordinator of the West Virginia Department of Education’s Office of Special Programs, has been recognized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as Childhood Immunization Champion for her outstanding efforts to promote childhood immunization in West Virginia. King has been a charter member, chair and executive committee member of numerous professional organizations and partnerships that seek to improve immunization rates in West Virginia.

“I am very humbled and appreciative of this great honor, but accept it with the understanding that such work is only accomplished within a true team,” King said. “Without this team, West Virginia would succumb to lower health standards and higher incidents of disease outbreaks which eventually lead to increased student and staff absenteeism, lower test scores and higher dropout rates. I am proud of the great people of West Virginia who continue to support our most valuable asset...our children.”

Each year during [National Infant Immunization Week](#), CDC honors health professionals and community leaders from around the country with the *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion* awards. These awards acknowledge the outstanding efforts of those individuals who strive to ensure that children in their communities are fully immunized against 14 preventable diseases before the age of two.

“Ensuring that every child is vaccinated on schedule is particularly important given the current measles outbreak, which has affected more than 150 people across the country since the beginning of the year,” said Dr. Anne Schuchat, Assistant Surgeon General for the United States Public Health Service and Director of CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. “We could not achieve our goal of protecting children without those committed individuals who are promoting immunizations at the state and local levels.”

CDC Childhood Immunization Champions were selected from a pool of health professionals, coalition members, community advocates, and other immunization leaders.

“Through the *Childhood Immunization Champion* awards, CDC and West Virginia proudly acknowledge Ms. King’s passion, hard work, and commitment to children’s health,” said Dr. Rahul Gupta, State Health Officer and Commissioner for the Bureau for Public Health. “She is an inspiration to all of us who work to improve the health of children in West Virginia.”

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