



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S.
Denver, CO 80246

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 27, 2012

CONTACT:

Mark Salley
Communications Director
303-692-2013
mark.salley@state.co.us

CDC recognizes Dr. Robert Brayden as childhood immunization champion

DENVER—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the CDC Foundation are honoring Dr. Robert Brayden, professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado and a physician at Children's Hospital, among other immunization advocates around the country, with the first ever CDC Childhood Immunization Champion awards. These awards acknowledge individuals who have made immunization successes possible in their community.

“These Champion Awards honor community leaders on the front lines who are ensuring all children are vaccinated,” said Dr. Howard K. Koh, assistant secretary for health, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. “As a former state commissioner of public health, I know state and local commitment inspires the nation, protects children and saves lives.”

Dr. Rachel Herlihy, immunization section chief at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, said, “Over the last 20 years, Dr. Bradyen has worked tirelessly to increase childhood vaccination rates by educating the public, health care professionals and his patients on the importance of these immunizations. His commitment and leadership to the Colorado Children’s Immunization Coalition, the Vaccine Advisory Committee for Colorado and other statewide immunization coalitions has significantly contributed to and improved public health in Colorado.”

CDC Childhood Immunization Champions were nominated by state immunization programs and selected from a pool of health care professionals, coalition members, parents and other immunization leaders as having made a significant contribution.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of the CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said, “Vaccine-preventable diseases still circulate in the United States and elsewhere. Without the diligent efforts of our champions, these potentially deadly diseases would be an even greater threat

to our nation's children. Each of us has the potential to be a champion by protecting children's health through immunization.”

For more information about other CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award winners, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/champions/index.html>. The awards were announced by CDC this week during the observance of National Infant Immunization Week.

---30---