

PROVIDING IMMUNIZATIONS FOR ADVANCING MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Shaker Heights City School District
Shaker Heights, Ohio

The goal of our first year in the National Network of Partnership Schools was to establish better communication between parents, the school system, and the community. As the group brainstormed ways to include the community, members of our Action Team, Jacquelyn Gholson (counselor at Woodbury) and Pat Mearns (Mayor of Shaker Heights), suggested that we look into providing immunization shots for sixth graders. We thought we might be able to offer the shots—possibly at a discount—at Woodbury’s Open House.

The committee called the city health department and received authorization to give MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) immunizations. The state of Ohio requires that all students entering seventh grade show proof of having received two MMR immunizations. Woodbury Elementary would help with this requirement by offering immunizations for the low cost of \$5.00 each.

On the night of the Open House, the school nurse’s office was used to administer the MMR shots. Karen Madeja (the school nurse) assisted Sandi Hurley (Shaker Heights Director of Nursing) in giving thirty-three shots in a two-hour period. Parents were asked to stay with their children during the procedure. Volunteers assisted in organizing the crowd and handing out juice to each child after he/she received the MMR immunization. Those who used Woodbury’s service for their second MMR shot were entered into a drawing for a new bicycle courtesy of the Shaker Heights Health Department.

The evening was very successful and beneficial to many of Woodbury’s families. Next year, the service will be provided once again, with the additional assistance of another nurse practitioner and more volunteers.

Heather Pincoe, Action Team Chair
(330) 995-4153