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## **Tri-County Health Department and Aurora Firefighters Earn National Recognition for Unique Immunization Clinic**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recognized Tri-County Health Department and the Aurora Fire Department's monthly "Shots for Tots Clinic" with a Model Practice Award at the national NACCHO conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. The award recognizes local public health agencies and community partners that effectively collaborate to address local public health concerns. Only 29 local public health agency programs in the U.S. received the award.

"The clinic is held at a fire station on the second Saturday of every month, and helps parents who are unable to leave work during the week as well as families who are uncomfortable in a more traditional health care setting," according to Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director of Tri-County Health Department. "It's a fun event and the clinic provides crucial immunizations against diseases such as measles, mumps, chicken pox, hepatitis and whooping cough."

There are no residency requirements, prices are very reasonable and no child is ever turned away because of inability to pay. Many of the staff members also speak Spanish.

Tri-County Health Department provides training for the paramedics so that they understand the vaccines and the diseases they prevent, and learn to give injections to children. The Aurora Fire Department participates in the clinic as part of their mission of community service and as a way to interact with children in situations that are not emergencies.

The health department evaluates individual immunization records, decides what vaccines each child needs and counsels parents. The Shots for Tots clinic is a joint effort between Tri-County Health Department, the Aurora Fire Department and the Colorado Children's

Immunization Coalition. In 2003, the monthly clinic provided 934 under-immunized children with multiple vaccinations.

In addition to the Aurora clinic site, immunizations are offered at numerous other times and locations throughout the metro area including Northglenn, Aurora, Castle Rock, Englewood and Parker. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call the Immunization InfoLine at (303) 451-0123 or visit [www.tchd.org](http://www.tchd.org).

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