

National Black Church Initiative

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THE NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE HAS DECLARED AN IMMUNIZATION EMERGENCY

We vow to immunize all of our members

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative, a coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, has recently declared a health emergency in the black church. As a part of our Health Emergency Declaration (HED) Initiative we are actively addressing disease states affecting African Americans at disparate rates and an essential component of this initiative is immunization. As the CDC and the World Health Organization has outlined, immunization, one of the most important and cost-effective public health interventions, has saved over 20 million lives in the last two decades and protected countless children from illness and disability. Immunization coverage has still not realized its potential, however. As of the end of 2009, 23.2 million children under one year of age worldwide went without all three recommended doses of the DTP vaccine; 23.7 million children in the same age group have not received a single dose of the measles vaccine. NBCI will no longer stand by while preventive measures aren't utilized – immunization coverage within the African American community must be improved.

NBCI has devised a strategy to immunize every man, woman and child within our membership over the next two years and are reaching out to pharmaceutical companies and state and federal agencies to fund this extraordinary and necessary initiative. Immunization is an affordable means of protecting whole communities and of reducing poverty – a necessary preventive measure which saves lives.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI says, “As you can see the health community realizes the benefits of immunization and the science is clear – immunization not only saves lives but a lot of money. For the black community, the fight to immunize our community is winnable. We have the strategy, we have the will – the only thing we lack is funding.”

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. The National Black Church Initiative's methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.