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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **ARKANSAS PHARMACISTS TO IMMUNIZE UNINSURED CHILD CARE EMPLOYEES**

LITTLE ROCK, AR (Sept. 17, 2012) – Arkansas pharmacists will help to protect uninsured child care employees from illness in the coming months. Members of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA) will help to administer vaccinations to uninsured employees of Arkansas Better Beginnings child care facilities identified in conjunction with the Adult Immunization Project of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI).

“Pharmacists want to help protect those who care for our children from seasonal flu and whooping cough,” said APA Executive Vice President Mark Riley. “Pharmacists will help administer vaccines to uninsured child care employees at child care facilities between now and the end of 2012. APA is proud to lead this important effort to help Arkansans – especially kids and those who work with them – stay healthy.”

APA recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Arkansas Health Department to help immunize child care workers. Through a \$140,000 grant, APA will implement the Child Care Employee Immunization Project between September and December 31, 2012. The goal is to provide 5,000 shots by the end of 2012.

APA will arrange onsite immunization clinics at childcare facilities using Arkansas pharmacists. The Child Care employees will be vaccinated with the Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) and seasonal influenza vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides more information on the best protection for pertussis and seasonal influenza on its website: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/).

Better Beginnings is the Arkansas Quality Rating and Improvement System for early education and care programs and youth development programs <http://www.arbetterbeginnings.com/>.

*The Arkansas Pharmacists Association, founded in 1882, is the statewide professional association representing approximately 2,200 pharmacists in Arkansas. APA strives to further the professional advancement of pharmacists, advocate the value of pharmacy, and safeguard the health and well-being of every Arkansan. Its mission is to advance a professional and business environment for Arkansas pharmacists to be successful and fulfilled in serving patients.*

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