Vaccines for diseases that had killed millions of people even only a few decades ago—such as measles, polio, whooping cough and tuberculosis—are now available for decades. Thanks in part to vaccination programs in the United States, the incidence of many of these diseases has declined dramatically. However, in recent years, outbreaks (three or more cases of a single disease) have been reported in some states.

Researchers have linked childhood vaccines to an increase in severe adverse reactions. Take measles, for instance—measles morbillivirus (MMV) spreads easily and quickly. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), continuous transmission of measles was eliminated in the United States by 2000. But, in recent years, measles outbreaks have been reported. The CDC reports that the majority of people who have gotten measles in recent years were not vaccinated.

When large numbers of people are not vaccinated, diseases can have a much harder time spreading. For example, if a disease but is in contact with someone who is vaccinated, the disease will not spread because the protection that vaccines stimulated is a “community” or “herd” immunity. But when many people in a community are not getting vaccinated, herd immunity does not develop, and many people no longer have protection against the disease. Herd immunity can collapse. For example, according to Rich Zimmerman, MD, MPH, professor of medicine and associate director of the Western PA region of Community Health and the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, say that almost all childhood vaccines are meant to protect against a disease, to prevent the disease from developing or to help keep people from getting a severe illness or death. Herd immunity is lost when people stop vaccinating.

It is especially important to dispel myths in the Black community, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found that Black Americans have lower vaccination rates than their White counterparts. We need to increase outreach and awareness around vaccine safety in communities of color. We need to talk to people directly. The Urban League is committed to playing a role in education and outreach.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

It is especially important to talk about the impact of myths in the Black community, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found that Black Americans have lower vaccination rates than their White counterparts. We need to increase outreach and awareness around vaccine safety in communities of color. We need to talk to people directly. The Urban League is committed to playing a role in education and outreach.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.

As we’re smack in the middle of the flu season, the topic of immunizations is reemerging for discussion. Studies show when large numbers of people are not getting vaccinations, the overall community protection breaks down, and people do not have protection against preventable diseases.