



Monthly Immunization Update April 2016

Dear Providers,

This newsletter is meant to keep you up to date on issues related to vaccines quickly and easily. We welcome your comments and questions; please email us at immunization.program@ventura.org

Vaccines and Immunizations

Immunization is one of the greatest medical successes in human history. Immunizations have saved millions of lives over the past century.

Children need immunizations (shots) to protect them from certain dangerous childhood diseases. And now, increasingly, vaccines are available to help people of all ages from catching and spreading serious diseases like flu, meningitis, and whooping cough. Getting immunized helps our communities stay healthier. That's because diseases spread more easily from person to person among people who haven't gotten their shots.

Many diseases that have been eliminated in the United States are still common in other parts of the world. That means that dangerous diseases like polio and measles are potentially just a plane flight away. A 2006 outbreak of mumps in the Midwest shows how easy it is for these diseases to spread.

Infants and young children are at the highest risk from these diseases. Immunizations help your child's immune system to become stronger to fight off these diseases. Each time a child receives an immunization, their immune system becomes stronger.

NEW IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES AND FOOTNOTES

The [2016 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years](#) has been approved by ACIP, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. A summary of the updates to the 2016 immunization schedule was published in the [MMWR](#) on February 5, 2016, and the figures, footnotes, and tables are posted [on the CDC website](#). For each vaccine, the footnotes summarize the current recommendations for routine and catch-up immunizations and recommendations for high-risk persons.

In keeping with your VFC provider agreement, providers should follow the [recommended 2016 ACIP immunization schedule](#). We encourage providers to review the 2016 immunization schedule, complete footnotes, and catch-up schedule together with all staff, especially those who order and administer vaccines. We recommend that the 2016 schedules, including footnotes, be posted for reference in the office. VFC providers may order print copies of the 2016 ACIP Immunization Schedule through [VFC's Material Store](#).

Immunization Requirements for school: Visit www.shotsforschool.org to get up to date information on school entry requirements.

Vaccine News:

Updated [Meningococcal](#) and [HPV9](#) VISs are available now
'You Call the Shots' Tdap module now available
'You Call the Shots' Hepatitis B module now available

IMPORTANT: VIS Updates - Several VIS's have been updated. Make sure you have the correct one for your practice you can visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html>

IZ Branch Begins New Pertussis Initiative

The Immunization Branch is beginning a new pertussis initiative. As recently as 2014, 530 young infants fell ill with pertussis in California, and three died. Prenatal immunization with Tdap vaccine is now the preferred strategy to protect infants who are at the greatest risk of severe and fatal disease but are too young to be vaccinated. Tdap vaccine is recommended for all pregnant women in the third trimester every pregnancy, so that maternal antibodies can protect newborns until they are old enough for DTaP vaccine. Anecdotal reports from prenatal care providers suggest that there are major barriers to offering Tdap, including limited provider networks and other reimbursement issues. To systematically collect information on these barriers, the Immunization Branch has developed a supplement to the standard pertussis case report form to complete when an infant <4 months of age is reported with pertussis. Gathering this data will help CDPH and partners be better advocates and support prenatal care providers in providing this standard of care.

The latest pertussis data is posted on CDPH's [Pertussis Summary Reports webpage](#). In 2015, 4,683 Californians were reported with laboratory-confirmed pertussis, down from more than 11,000 cases in 2014. Of these, 198 people were hospitalized, 69% of whom were infants younger than four months of age. [Pertussis resources](#) are available for patients and communities on EZIZ.org.

CAIR Update: Bigger Better Faster! The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) is in the process of being updated to a bigger, better and faster immunization information system, called CAIR 2. All existing immunization data from the regional registries in California are being combined into one system, so you will be able to access immunization information from across the state in the future. Visit the [CAIR 2 webpage](#) to find out:

- When your region will launch to CAIR 2
- What trainings you may need to take to use CAIR 2
- The many benefits of using CAIR 2

Continue to visit the CAIR 2 webpage for the latest updates!

And please remember to [update your email address through the login page](#) to receive important communications throughout the CAIR 2 transition.

VCF PROVIDERS:

Did you know an average refrigerator and freezer can contain more than \$100,000 of vaccines? Protect your vaccines. Vaccines stored improperly will not protect your patients.

Maintain proper temperature ranges.

- Refrigerate between- 35.0oF and 46.0oF (2.0°C and 8.0°C)
- Freeze between -58°F and 5.0°F (-50.0°C and -15.0°C)

Use a VFC-compliant temperature monitoring device. (Starting in 2017, all VFC providers will need to use a data logger to record temps.)

Record CURRENT, MIN and MAX temps twice a day on a VFC Program temp log, even if you use a data logger.

Vaccine Inventory: Make sure you have adequate vaccine inventory in your refrigerators to be ready for School enrollments.

Although vaccines may sometimes arrive within a few days of submitting your request, VFC recommends that you place your vaccine request with sufficient doses on hand to allow up to 3 weeks for the receipt of your vaccine shipment. In the event that your shipment takes the full 3 weeks to arrive, you will not run out of inventory while you wait for your shipment.

Email immunization.program@ventura.org for information and registration.

Keep in mind that all VFC communications are always posted on VFC's website, www.eziz.org

You can also view this information at <http://vchca.org/public-health/for-health-care-providers> or follow

us on:  

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