

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

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. It's a great time to learn more about cervical cancer and ways to prevent this disease from affecting family and friends.

What Is Cervical Cancer?

- Cervical cancer is a disease caused by the uncontrolled growth of cells that line the cervix. The cervix is the lower part of the uterus that connects the uterus to the vaginal canal. Worldwide, cervical cancer is the 3rd most common cancer among women and the 2nd most frequent cause of cancer-related death. Fortunately, the availability of screening tests such as the Pap test have greatly reduced cases of cervical cancer in the U.S. In addition, several vaccines are available that can prevent the human papilloma virus (HPV) types that cause most cervical cancers.
- Today, approximately 12,000 women in the U.S. get cervical cancer each year, and 4,000 women die from it. Compared to all women, Latina women are more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer, while African American/Black women are more likely to die from it. These health disparities are largely the result of unequal access to healthcare, which leads to lower cervical cancer screening rates and delayed treatment if abnormal cell growth or cancer is identified. Some real-life stories from women and their families impacted by cervical cancer and HPV are available at this [link](#).

Flu season is beginning to increase!

- The latest CDC Influenza Summary report indicates that there have been some increases in flu activity in the United States. Although the start and peak of most flu seasons vary in their timing from year to year, most often flu peaks during the month of February.
- Many weeks of flu activity are likely still ahead of us, therefore it is important to ensure that patients 6 months and older in your practice who have not yet received their annual influenza vaccine, and children who may need their second dose, are vaccinated. It takes about two weeks after vaccination to develop protection. So vaccination even now, after the holiday break, still offers protection against flu viruses.
- Some children aged 6 months of age through 8 years of age may require two doses of influenza vaccine for full protection. For these children, a single dose of vaccine may offer only reduced protection or no protection at all.

Join us by celebrating Preteen Vaccine Week: February 7-13, 2016: The goal of 2016's Preteen Vaccine Week campaign is raise awareness about California's Tdap requirement for incoming 7th grade students, immunization recommendations for 11- and 12-year-olds, and promote the preteen doctor visit through multiple avenues such as schools, providers, and the media

ACIP currently recommends that 11- and 12-year-olds receive these vaccines:

- **Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough):** All students entering 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school.
- **HPV (human papillomavirus):** Boys and girls need 3 shots for full protection.
- **Meningococcal:** Preteens need one shot now and a booster at age 16.
- **Influenza (flu):** Flu vaccine is needed every year!
- **Chickenpox:** Many kids didn't get their second chickenpox shot. Check with the doctor

To VFC Providers:

Recertification is Due February 16, 2016

- This is an important reminder that 2016 VFC Recertification is due on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. All VFC providers must complete the recertification process in order to continue participation in the program and receive publicly funded vaccines.
- If your clinic has not yet completed this process, login to your [MyVFCvaccines](#) account to access and submit your clinic's 2016 Recertification Form. Details on the 2016 Recertification process can be found in the January 14, 2016 communication sent to VFC Providers and posted on eziz.org: [http://eziz.org/assets/docs/VFCletter_2016_1_Recertification_1516-9\(1\).pdf](http://eziz.org/assets/docs/VFCletter_2016_1_Recertification_1516-9(1).pdf).

New Temperature Monitoring Resources for 2016: The California VFC Program will launch a new online temperature excursion reporting system in January 2016. The 'Storage and Handling Online Triage System' (SHOTS) is a web-based system for California VFC providers. The SHOTS system can be accessed through the provider's account at [MyVFCvaccines.org](#).

2016 VFC Refrigerator and Freezer Temperature Logs: The revised refrigerator and freezer logs are available in both Fahrenheit and Celsius. Providers should begin using the new temperature logs on January 1, 2016. Please recycle unused versions of older temperature logs. Temperature logs are available to download from www.EZIZ.org. The VFC Program also has printed temperature logs, in tear-off pad form, available for ordering at the [VFC Materials Store](#).

Resource Links

- New Temperature Logs for 2016 flier IMM-1151 (12/15)
- How to Record Refrigerator and Freezer Temperatures Job Aid F IMM-1029 (12/15)
- How to Record Refrigerator and Freezer Temperatures Job Aid C IMM-1029C (12/15)
- Data Logger Setup & Use Job Aid IMM-1206 (12/15)

Refrigerators

- Refrigerator Temperature Log F IMM-1125 (12/15)
- Refrigerator Temperature Log C IMM-1127 (12/15)

Freezers

- Freezer Temperature Log F IMM-1126 (12/15)
- Freezer Temperature Log C IMM-1128 (12/15)

Please remind your staff to pay close attention to communication citing or including VFC program requirements that may be coming from organizations or individuals, and NOT from the VFC Program. These communications may or may not necessarily or accurately reflect program requirements.

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

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



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