



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

Governor Signs SB277 into Law: On June 30, Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 277 (Pan). Effective one year from now, in July 2016, SB 277 will eliminate personal and religious exemptions from immunization requirements for children in child care and public and private schools. The law will also allow personal belief exemptions (PBEs) submitted before January 1, 2016 to remain valid until a pupil reaches kindergarten or 7th grade. For more details, read the [text of SB 277](#) and the [Governor's signing message](#). Further information about the implementation of SB 277 will become available by 2016 and will be posted on www.shotsforschool.org

ACIP Updates

Permissive Recommendation for Meningococcal B Vaccines at Ages 16-23 Years: At their June 24 meeting, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted that serogroup B meningococcal (MenB) vaccines “may be administered to adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years to provide short-term protection against most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease. The preferred age for MenB vaccination is 16 - 18 years.” The wording designates the recommendation as “Category B (permissive)” rather than routine. Health care providers and patients will decide on an individual basis whether to use the vaccine. Category B recommendations are covered with no cost-sharing by the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) and most private health plans. VFC participants ages 16 - 18 will be eligible for the MenB vaccines. California VFC providers can expect further guidance on vaccine availability and ordering from the VFC program after the recommendations have been published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR); ACIP recommendations are official once published in the MMWR.

Two MenB vaccines are available in the US. Bexsero® is given in a two-dose series and Trumenba® is given in three doses. The ACIP recommended the same product for all doses of the series, with no preference of one product over the other. Both are approved for ages 10 - 25 years but may be given to high-risk persons older than 25 years. The ACIP voted in February to recommend MenB vaccines in people older than 10 years who have a specific increased risk for meningococcal group B disease. [Read MMWR June 12, 2015](#). VFC will cover [MenB vaccines](#) for ages 10-18 for those meeting high-risk criteria. In addition, MenB vaccines will be covered by private insurers based on Affordable Care Act guidelines.

ACIP – One Year or More between PCV13 and PPSV23 for Adults Age 65+: ACIP also extended the recommended interval for adults 65 years and older receiving the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13, Prevnar 13®) and the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23, Pneumovax 23®) to one year, regardless of sequence. The previously recommended interval had been 6-12 months. One dose of PCV13 and one dose of PPSV23 are covered by Medicare Part B if separated by at least one year.

Vaccine Tips: Keep it simple. It's easy to confuse similar types of vaccines, for example Pentacel® and Pediarix®, or RotaTeq® and Rotarix®. Similar vaccines can have different components, number of doses, and

schedules. This may lead to confusion and potential errors. **Choose one product to use in your practice.** If your practice needs to switch products, make sure everyone on staff is properly trained and familiar with the new product.

Tip: download [Immunization Schedule with Combination Vaccines](#) from EZIZ.org, review it with staff, and post it for reference.

VIS Q & A: Is it necessary for us to record the actual date that the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) was provided or can it be assumed that the VIS was provided on the day the shot was given?

Federal law requires that the provider record in the medical record the date the VIS was provided and the date the vaccine was administered. In addition, providers are required to record the edition date of the VIS (found on the back at the right bottom corner), the name, office address, and title of the healthcare provider who administers the vaccine, and the vaccine manufacturer and lot number.

California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program: Influenza season will be underway soon, and the California Influenza Surveillance Program needs your help! In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) works with clinicians throughout the state to conduct surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in outpatients. These clinicians volunteer as sentinel providers and are an invaluable part of our influenza surveillance program. Sentinel providers help us assess the timing, location, and impact of influenza viruses, and also help to identify the influenza virus strains that are circulating in the community. To enroll [CLICK HERE](#):

As a health care provider, you are at the front line of influenza epidemics. Please consider participating as a sentinel provider- the information you provide will help us better target influenza education, vaccine and prevention strategies. Please find attached information on how to enroll. If you have questions or would like more information before enrolling, please email InfluenzaSurveillance@cdph.ca.gov or contact Christina Moore by email at Christina.Moore@cdph.ca.gov or by phone 510-620-3761.

Additional information about the California Influenza Surveillance Program is available at:

<http://cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc/Pages/CaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx>

VFC's Providers:

VFC providers "Gardasil 9, Nine-Valent HPV Vaccine, is Now Available if you did not received the official letter you can view it at the following link. Please click on the highlighted text to view the June 2015 VFC letter, "[Gardasil 9, Nine-Valent HPV Vaccine, is Now Available from VFC](#)" For additional tips and resources, please see: <http://eziz.org/resources/immunization-promo-materials/> under "Preteen" and www.cdc.gov/vaccines/youarethekey. Contact your local health department to order select CDPH educational materials.

Get your practice ready for the 2015-2016 Flu Season:

2015-2016 VFC Flu Vaccine Order Confirmation Due August 4, 2015 : VFC's Flu Order Confirmation System for this year's seasonal flu vaccine requests. As a reminder, flu doses must be confirmed by **Tuesday, August 4, 2015**. Unconfirmed doses after the deadline will be released into a general vaccine supply available to all providers during supplemental flu ordering. Login to MyVFCVaccines on www.eziz.org using your VFC PIN and zip code.

Your thermometers need special care. Every thermometer you use to monitor VFC vaccines must have a valid and up-to-date certificate of calibration. **Review the [Checklist for Thermometer Certificate of Traceability and Calibration on EZIZ for more info.](#)**

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:  

Ventura County Public Health Immunization Program

Phone: (805) 981-5211 Fax: (805) 981-5210 immunization.program@ventura.org