



Ventura County Public Health

A Division of the Ventura County Health Care Agency

Monthly Immunization Update March 2015

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

Measles, Measles, Measles: Data on cases in the United States is updated each Monday on the [CDC website](#) and each Friday at the [CDPH website](#). Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness, and spreads very rapidly in unvaccinated populations. Although many of today's US health care providers have never seen a case of measles, the global threat remains high, with an estimated 20 million cases each year and 400 deaths per day worldwide, and importations of measles cases to the US are increasing annually. CIC is working with local, state and national partners to improve provider and community knowledge and stress the importance of on-time vaccination. For reliable sources of updated information connect with CIC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and review available resource materials at www.immunizeca.org.

NIIW: A Campaign for Infant and Toddler Month: Please join us in celebrating **National Infant Immunization Week, April 18 - 25, 2015** and Toddler Immunization Month in May. Since 1994, NIIW has celebrated the critical role of vaccines in protecting children. State and local health departments, coalitions, providers and other immunization stakeholders will celebrate the observance by working to increase public awareness about the importance of infant immunization and recognizing the work of those who contribute to the effort.

NIIW/TIM highlights the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and fully vaccinating children ages two years and younger. The NIIW theme "Immunization: Power to Protect" serves as a reminder of how effective and vital vaccines are in protecting children. With the recent measles and pertussis outbreaks in California, this is an excellent time to remind expectant parents and families of infants and toddlers that they should schedule a doctor visit and get immunized against dangerous diseases such as measles, pertussis, and influenza.

This year, California local health departments, coalitions and other partners will focus on improving immunization rates in child care centers by encouraging child care staff to follow up with children who have been conditionally admitted or have aged into new immunization requirements. The [Shots for School website](#) now features a look-up tool that will aid in identifying [child care centers](#) with low immunization rates. Search by zip code or facility/school name to view immunization rates in your area.

To VFC Providers: In order to prevent delays with the delivery of your vaccine shipments, VFC requests that prior to submitting a vaccine order, your clinic's vaccine delivery days and hours on your "MYVFCVaccines" page is verified to make sure they are accurate. Shipments delivered according to outdated delivery information not only increases shipping costs due to multiple delivery attempts, but may result in a negligent vaccine loss for the practice.

Vaccine Safety: Keep vaccine storage equipment, including thermometers, running smoothly by changing your batteries.

2015 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons 0 through 18 Years: In keeping with your VFC provider agreement, providers should follow the [recommended 2015 ACIP immunization schedule](#). We encourage providers to review the 2015 immunization schedule, complete footnotes, and catch-up schedule together with all staff, especially those who order and administer vaccines. We recommend that the 2015 schedules, including footnotes, be posted for reference in the office

FLU VACCINES EXPIRE ON DIFFERENT DATES: Double check the expiration dates of all the flu vaccine in your practice. Always remove expired vaccine from the refrigerator. Report expired vaccines through MyVFCVaccines. Remember, call your VFC Rep if you have short dated vaccine or have questions.

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

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