

### 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](mailto:immunization.program@ventura.org)

**Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine each year.** Vaccination is especially important for people who are at high risk for complications from flu, and for people who live with or care for someone who is at high risk.

For a community clinic near you visit our website @ <http://www.vchca.org/ph>



Click on image above for 2015 Community Flu Clinics Schedule

### Protect Your Patients with Asthma from Influenza

People with asthma are more likely to get severe influenza. Asthma is the *most* common medical condition among children hospitalized with influenza and one of the more common conditions among hospitalized adults. [[See the Flu View Interactive application.](#)]

### Immunize ASAP

To help protect your patients with asthma, urge them to get immunized against influenza as soon as flu vaccine is available. Please review current recommendations closely: Inactivated influenza vaccines may be used with fewer restrictions than live vaccine.

Because people with asthma are at greater risk for developing pneumonia, you should also recommend pneumococcal vaccines, which may be given at the same time as influenza vaccine.

### Treat Sick Patients Promptly

- CDC recommends that health care providers treat flu illness promptly with [antiviral medications](#) for those with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk of severe influenza.
- For more information, visit the [CDC developmental disabilities webpage](#).

### CDPH recommends you use these materials to educate patients:

- [“Protect them from the Flu”](#) bilingual pediatric poster
- [Fight Back—Get Your Flu Shot](#) | Spanish (CDC) Poster for people with asthma
- My Little Boy has Asthma [flyer](#) | Spanish (CDC)
- My Little Boy has Asthma [poster](#) | Spanish (CDC)
- Are you at risk for serious complications [from the flu?](#) (CDC)

### Temporary Exemption from the Mercury-Free Act - Use of influenza vaccine in children younger than 3 years of age:

Since 2006, California law [Health and Safety Code Section 124172 subdivision (a)] has stated that vaccines containing specific levels of mercury cannot be administered to pregnant women and young children, except under certain circumstances. Because of the dangers posed by the seasonal influenza epidemic, and because there are currently insufficient supplies of thimerosal-free influenza vaccine that have levels of mercury below the state legal limits, the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency has granted a temporary exemption

to this restriction for 2015-16 seasonal influenza vaccine administered to children younger than 3 years old for the period of October 9, 2015 – December 31, 2015, to be used as needed based on vaccine availability.

This temporary exemption will help protect young children at high-risk for severe influenza complications and is similar to exemptions issued in 2006, 2009 and 2013. In accordance with the intent of the law, during this exemption period physicians should prioritize any remaining supplies of thimerosal-free vaccine to young children when feasible. As with other routine vaccines, providers should continue to provide patients and parents or guardians with the specific Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) that lists risks and benefits before immunization. Information about the exemption is described at

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/CaliforniaThimerosalLaw.aspx> Please contact the California Department of Public Health's Immunization Branch at (510) 620-3737 if you have additional questions after visiting the website.

Thank you for your efforts to protect Californians against influenza!

California Department of Public Health Influenza Branch

## Vaccinate Adolescents: Think 1–2–3

One way to remember the adolescent vaccination schedule is to think 1–2–3:

1

One Dose of Tdap

2

Two Doses of Meningococcal Vaccine  
(at 11–12 years and at 16 years of age)

3

Three Doses of HPV  
(with 1 dose at 11–12 years of age followed by 2 more doses over a 24-week period)

And influenza vaccine is easy to remember, too. It's given every fall.

### VFC's Providers:

TIP: Upon order submission, please allow up to 15 business days for the processing and delivery of your vaccine request. Make sure to place your vaccine request with sufficient inventory on hand (3 weeks recommended).

**Vaccine Supply Update:** VFC's Supplemental Flu Ordering is now available. Please go to [www.eziz.org](http://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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