

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

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine each year. Vaccines are 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 successful Influenza vaccination season discuss and outline key strategies to achieve high influenza vaccination coverage rates of your patients and decrease missed opportunities for vaccination.

These strategies may include:

- Reminding patients to come in for their annual influenza vaccination
- Expanding hours for influenza vaccination
- Allowing influenza vaccine-only visits
- Discussing mechanisms to track patients who will be due to return to the practice for a second dose.

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

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.

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.

Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are information sheets produced by the CDC that explain both the benefits and risks of a vaccine to vaccine recipients. Make sure your clinic is providing the most current VISs. View and download directly from CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html> or www.eziz.org.

Federal law requires that healthcare staff provide a VIS to a patient, parent, or legal representative before each dose of certain vaccinations. Healthcare providers shall make a notation in each patient's permanent medical record at the time vaccine information materials are provided, indicating:

1. The edition date of the VIS distributed.
2. The date the VIS was provided.

ACIP votes to recommend 2-dose HPV vaccine series for younger adolescents: The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met October 19–20. A selection from the [October 19 press release](#) about their vote to recommend 2 doses of HPV vaccine for younger adolescents. View report on www.cdc.gov CDC will provide guidance to parents, healthcare professionals, and insurers on the change in recommendation. On October 7, 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved adding a 2-dose schedule for 9-valent HPV vaccine (Gardasil® 9) for adolescent's ages 9 through 14 years. CDC encourages clinicians to begin implementing the 2-dose schedule in their practice to protect their preteen patients from HPV cancers.

Information for VFC Providers:

VFC's Supplemental Ordering will be available to VFC providers through MYVFC Vaccines from the week of **October 24, 2016 through the end of the 2016-2017** influenza season (as vaccine supply permits). Any VFC provider who was unable to submit their initial order confirmation to VFC this past summer and all providers who have already received all of their confirmed doses for a particular formulation but need additional doses for VFC-eligible children may submit a supplemental order. Providers who have not yet received all confirmed doses of a particular product will have ordering disabled for that product (until all doses are received), but may order products that have already shipped in full

EVERY TIME you place a vaccine order, review your practice's delivery days and times.

Deliveries are made according information reflected in your "MYVFCVaccines" account. If your practice will be on vacation or unable to receive shipments, please contact the VFC Customer Service Center as soon as possible. Undeliverable shipments due to incorrect shipping hours lead to delivery delays, can result in vaccine damage, and may even lead to a negligent vaccine loss. Your practice may be held financially accountable. All staff working with immunizations should be knowledgeable about proper procedures for receiving, inspecting, and storing vaccines.

2016-2017 Influenza Vaccine Supply Update: For information on Vaccine Supply updates and Supplemental ordering visit. http://eziz.org/assets/docs/2016-2017%20VFC%20Supplemental%20Flu%20Letter_10_26_16.pdf

Vaccine Tips: **Your Refrigerator and Freezer Temperature Logs must be complete AND accurate.**

They are the "official records" of the temperatures in your storage units.

If temperatures are not recorded or are recorded incorrectly,

- Your vaccines might be deemed unusable;
- Your clinic might need to replace the vaccines; and
- You might need to revaccinate your patients.

Never falsify information on your temp logs. It can lead to extremely serious consequences.

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

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