

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

Mandatory Influenza Vaccination or Masking of Health Care Workers during Influenza Season

<http://vchca.org/public-health/for-health-care-providers>

**If you work with patients, you need a
flu vaccine every year.**



Know why?

- Anyone can get sick from the flu, even healthy people.
- You can get the flu from sick patients and coworkers.
- Some people can be infectious and have no symptoms.
- If you get the flu, you might not feel ill, but you can spread it.
- Annual flu vaccine protects you, your patients, and your family.

New Flu Information for 2016-2017

Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations. The more people who get vaccinated, the more people will be protected from flu, including older people, very young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious flu complications.

What's new this flu season?

- Only injectable flu shots are recommended for use this season.
- Flu vaccines have been updated to better match circulating viruses.
- There will be some new vaccines on the market this season.
- The recommendations for vaccination of people with egg allergies have changed.

What flu vaccines are recommended this season?

This season, only injectable flu vaccines (flu shots) should be used.

(LAIV) – or the nasal spray vaccine – is **NOT** recommended for use during the 2016-2017 season because of concerns about its effectiveness.

There is a [table](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/vaccines.htm) showing all the influenza vaccines that are FDA-approved for use in the United States during the 2016-2017 season.

What viruses do 2016-2017 flu vaccines protect against?

There are many flu viruses and they are constantly changing. The composition of U.S. flu vaccines is reviewed annually and updated to match circulating flu viruses. Flu vaccines protect against the three or four viruses that research suggests will be most common. For 2016-2017, three-component vaccines are recommended to contain:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus,
- A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus and a
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (B/Victoria lineage).

Four component vaccines are recommended to include the same three viruses above, plus an additional B virus called B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage).

Can I get a flu vaccine if I am allergic to eggs?

The recommendations for people with egg allergies have been updated for this season.

People who have experienced only hives after exposure to egg can get any licensed flu vaccine that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health.

People who have symptoms other than hives after exposure to eggs, such as angioedema, respiratory distress, lightheadedness, or recurrent emesis; or who have needed epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention, also can get any licensed flu vaccine that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health, but the vaccine should be given in a medical setting and be supervised by a health care provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions. (Settings include hospitals, clinics, health departments, and physician offices). People with egg allergies no longer have to wait 30 minutes after receiving their vaccine.

Encourage adult patients—or parents of your young patients—to get caught up on recommended for vaccinations. Hand out the CDC's [easy-to-read adult immunization schedule](#) or refer adult patients to their [interactive online personal vaccine scheduler](#).

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

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

us on:  

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