



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
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VFC Program Updates

Dear VFC Provider,

2016-2017 Influenza Vaccine Update:

- Annual influenza vaccination is routinely recommended for children 6 months of age and older. Some children 6 months through 8 years of age may require two doses of influenza vaccine for full protection. For these children, a single dose of vaccine may only offer reduced protection or no protection at all.
- Findings from a new CDC study published this month in *Pediatrics*, underscore the critical importance of ensuring children and adolescents receive an annual flu shot in order to prevent influenza-associated deaths. According to these findings:

Flu vaccination reduced the risk of flu-associated death by 51% among children with high-risk medical conditions, and by 65% among healthy children.

Of the reported pediatric deaths with known vaccination status (291) looked at during the study period, **only 1 in 4 children (26%) had been vaccinated.**

- VFC has adequate supplies of flu vaccine available for ordering to support your ongoing flu vaccination efforts.

Quadracel™ (DTaP-IPV)-Coming Soon!

- The VFC Program is preparing for the launch of Sanofi's Quadracel™ vaccine, which is anticipated to be available for ordering in late May 2017.
- Be on the lookout for the official VFC Program letter regarding Quadracel™.

2017 Immunization Schedules:

Print copies of the 2017 recommended [childhood](#) and [adult](#) immunization schedules are available for ordering through [the California VFC Online Materials Store](#) while supplies last. Please consider ordering additional available materials you may need at this time.

April 22-29 is National Infant Immunization Week!

Thank you for continuing to make sure babies and toddlers in your practice are protected from vaccine preventable diseases.