



Immunization Branch, California Department of Public Health, 850 Marina Bay Pkwy, Bldg P, Richmond, CA 94804 (510) 620-3737

To: Immunization Program Coordinators
California Immunization Coalition members
VFC Providers

May 2013

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New! CAIR Online Registration and Software Upgrade

The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) announces the Immunization Messaging Portal (IMP). This is a new semi-automated portal that allows eligible professionals, hospitals, and Health Information Organizations (HIOs) to register for data exchange with CAIR in a way that qualifies for "meaningful use."



Eligible providers may submit HL7 test messages for validation as a path to achieve ongoing data submission. IMP services will soon be available in seven CAIR regions: Northern California, Greater Sacramento, Bay Area, Central Coast, Central Valley, Los Angeles-Orange, and Inland Empire.

CAIR now accommodates results from newer TB tests (IGRAs). Refer to the [TB page at cairweb.org](http://cairweb.org) for updated CAIR forms and instructions.

Statewide Immunization Campaigns

NIIW/TIM 2013 Activities

California observed National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) on April 20-27 and continues with Toddler Immunization Month (TIM) for the remainder of May. These observances highlight the importance of protecting young children from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization.

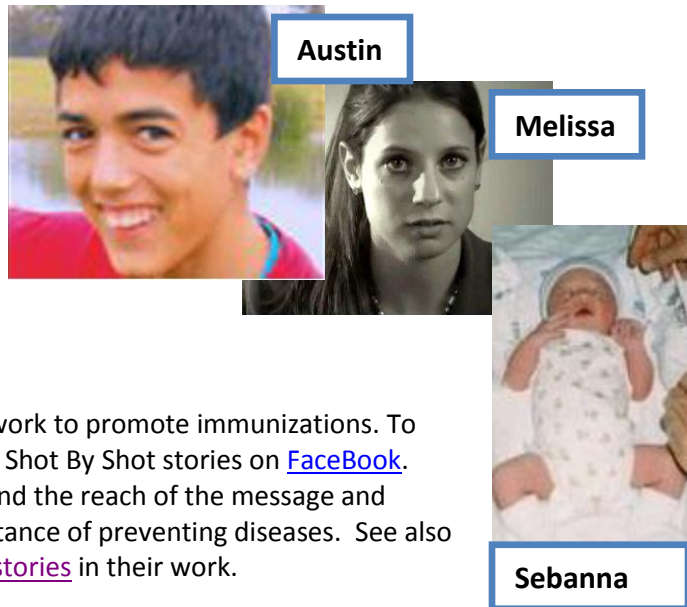


This year, at least 15 California local health departments and other community partners helped get out the word about infant and toddler immunizations. They tweeted messages and posted NIW updates on Facebook, as well as distributed materials, including the recently-updated [Immunizations for a Healthy Pregnancy](#). Counties displayed materials at local health fairs and libraries. Innovative local efforts included an art contest in Imperial County and an “I Choose” poster campaign in Placer County.

New Shot By Shot Stories Feature Flu and More

In recent additions to the Shot By Shot story gallery at www.shotbyshot.org, parents describe the devastating impact of influenza on five previously healthy children. Other new stories include poignant accounts of varicella, Japanese Encephalitis, and meningitis, and of an infant who died from pertussis.

- [Madison’s Story](#) (flu, written)
- [Austin’s Story](#) (flu, written)
- [Jacob’s Story](#) (flu, written)
- [Maya C’s Story](#) (flu, written)
- [Brandon’s Story](#) (flu, written)
- [Melissa’s Story](#) (varicella)
- [Becky D’s Story](#) (Japanese Encephalitis)
- [Facing Meningitis](#) (two college students’ stories)
- [Sebanna’s Story](#) (pertussis, written)



These stories are tragic reminders of why we work to promote immunizations. To help spread the word, you are invited to “like” Shot By Shot stories on [FaceBook](#). Social media likes, comments, and shares extend the reach of the message and enhance social engagement around the importance of preventing diseases. See also [how immunization advocates have used such stories](#) in their work.

Vaccine News

Quadrivalent flu vaccines Arriving this Year!

Quadrivalent influenza vaccines that protect against a second strain of influenza B virus will become available in the 2013-14 flu season.

While most influenza vaccines will remain trivalent, at least two companies, GlaxoSmithKline (fluarix®) and Medimmune (flumist®) will produce quadrivalent vaccines .

Quadrivalent vaccines are expected to cost more than trivalent versions. For more information, see this [CDC guide to Quadrivalent Flu Vaccines](#) and [CDC’s 2013-14 flu vaccine table](#). Additional guidance is expected by the fall.

Pregnant Women Tdap Requirement Update

ACIP now recommends immunizing pregnant women during each pregnancy to maximize immune protection for the baby. The Branch has recently updated the brochure [Immunizations for a Health Pregnancy](#) (also in [Spanish](#)) to reflect this change. In time for Mother's Day, the Branch will send out communications to providers, encouraging them to vaccinate expectant mothers and close contacts with Tdap. Order copies from your local health department by referencing IMM-887. Please replace supplies of any versions ordered or downloaded before 2013.



New Study Finds Flu Vaccine May Reduce Hospitalizations

A study by researchers at Vanderbilt University published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* indicates that vaccine reduced hospitalization of adults for laboratory confirmed influenza by 70 percent. Read the [publication abstract](#) here.

VPD Update

H7N9 Influenza Update

Health Alert

In April, CDPH sent a template letter to local health departments about the first known human infections with a novel avian influenza A (H7N9) virus in China. At this time, there is no evidence that the virus has become easily transmissible from person-to-person. Nonetheless, new cases continue to be reported and case counts are likely to increase. Updates are available at: www.who.int/csr/don/en/.

[Interim guidance for infection control precautions](#) and updated information are available at the [CDC Avian Influenza A \(H7N9\) Virus](#) webpage.

Pediatric Flu Deaths 2012-13 Season

CDC reports that 126 children in the US, including nine in California, have died so far from influenza in the 2012-13 season. Tragically, this is considered a "typical" year for pediatric influenza deaths—higher than the 34 deaths last year, but much lower than the 282 deaths in the 2009-10 pandemic. These data underscore the unpredictability of influenza from one season to another. Learn more on [CDC's Flu View surveillance page](#).



Provider Education

2013 CIC Summit a Big Success

In April, The California Immunization Coalition (CIC) hosted its annual Summit in Los Angeles. Approximately 150 providers, advocates, researchers, and community partners from across the state participated.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, Acting Director of CDC's Center for Global Health and Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) thanked California for its exemplary immunization work. She applauded global efforts to eradicate polio and emphasized the potential of advocates to prevent cancer through increasing immunization against HPV.



Other plenary speakers included Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health; Dr. Litjen Tan, Chief Strategy Officer, Immunization Action Coalition and Co-Chair of the National Adult and Immunization Summit; Dr. Anthony Iton, Senior Vice President for Healthy Communities at the California Endowment; and Dr. Shana Alex Lavarreda from UCLA's Center on Health Policy.

A workshop on addressing vaccine hesitancy featured Ginny Heller from the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington State. She shared Washington's experience implementing a law that, like a new law in California in 2014, requires parents wishing to file a personal belief exemption to receive education from their doctor. [Presentations](#) from all presenters are now available on the CIC website.

2013 Immunization Champion Award Winners



California Assembly Member Dr. Richard Pan is the recipient of the California Immunization Coalition's 2013 **Natalie J. Smith Immunization Champion Award**. A pediatrician, Dr. Pan has been a long-time advocate for children and immunizations. He authored AB 2109, a new law going into effect in 2014 that will require parents requesting a personal belief exemption (PBE) from school immunization requirements to document education provided by a health care practitioner.



Dr. James Cherry received the **Ronald P. Bengasser Immunization Leadership Award** for his contributions to pertussis research, policies, and recommendations. Dr. Cherry is a Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a preeminent expert on pertussis.

Assessments

2012-13 Fall Assessment Results Online Soon

Results from the fall 2012 child care, kindergarten, and 7th grade assessments of compliance with state immunization requirements are now posted on the [Immunization Branch's website](#). The Branch extends many thanks to Immunization Coordinators and schools who worked to collect the data and complete their assessment reports.



Gearing Up for 2013-14 Fall Assessments

Immunization Coordinators can access the kindergarten and 7th grade school lists on the [administrative portal](#). Child care lists will be available in the coming weeks. To help ensure that school rosters are accurate, coordinators are encouraged to review the lists and make updates by June 30. For additional information, contact Teresa.Lee2@cdph.ca.gov.

Branch Staff Updates

Elisa Nucum-Snell is a new VFC Customer Service Representative in the Central Office, where she assists VFC providers. Before joining VFC, Elisa did customer service work for AT&T. Elisa earned her BS in Human Resource Development from Oakland University in Michigan.

Yunuen Garcia is one of two new VFC Representatives in the Central Valley. Yunuen previously served the Immunization Branch as a local CAIR representative and before that worked as a project specialist for the Fresno County Office of Education-Migrant Program as a project specialist. She attended Cal State University, Fresno and has an MPH in health education.

Mathew Middleton joins colleague Yunuen as another new VFC Representative in the Central Valley. Before joining the Branch, Mathew worked for UC Berkeley in an entomology lab studying the genetics of insect pests to California crops. He holds a BS in biochemistry and molecular biology from UC Davis and an MS in biology from Fresno State University.

Lindsay Obello is a new VFC Representative for Southern California. Most recently, Lindsay has been a grad student and graduates this month, earning her MPH in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. She also holds a BA in public health from UC Irvine.

Erin Escalada is a new VFC Customer Service Representative after starting as a Student Professional Worker and Clerk for the VCF Program. Claudia is currently an undergraduate student at Contra Costa College majoring in Nursing.

Claudia Anderson is a CAIR Help Desk Technician assisting providers with CAIR enrollment and answering questions about data entry. Claudia previously worked as a Project Coordinator in the VFC Program.

Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Observances

Date	Event	Partners/ Sponsors	Website/ Contact Info
May	Toddler Immunization Month	CDPH	www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/NIW-TIM.aspx
May 15-16 San Rafael, CA	2013 Immunization Coordinators Mtg	CDPH	N/A
May 16 Ashland, OR	WREN Conference	Western Regional Epidemiology Network	www.wrenconference.org/
May 20 Sacramento, CA	2013 California Medical Providers' Best Practices & GPRA Measures Conference	Indian Health Services, California	www.ihs.gov/california
August	National Immunization Awareness Month	CDC	www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/default.htm

New Print and Online Resources

Resource Title	Type of resource
Immunizations for a Healthy Pregnancy IMM-1034 (updated 2013)	Brochure
www.AdolescentVaccine.org (National Foundation for Infectious Diseases)	Website
On-Demand Webinars	
Reducing the Burden of HPV - Associated Cancer and Disease through HPV vaccination in the US.	
Looking Ahead to the Next Flu Season: Vaccine Options and Messages	
Applying Health Literate Communications—Examples from a Nasty Flu Season	