Dear EZIZ Users,

## Are your patients protected against vaccinepreventable diseases and ready for school entry this fall?

With new school immunization <u>regulations</u> now in effect, consult the following resources to ensure your patients have the vaccines they need to start school:

<u>Guide to Immunization Requirements for Pre-kindergarten</u> (Child Care)

<u>Guide to Immunization Requirements for K-12th Grade</u> <u>Provider Toolkit for 7th Grade Requirement</u>

Please note: all 7<sup>th</sup> graders need one Tdap and two chickenpox shots. Other vaccines may be required based on a patient's admission status. Use <u>this guide</u> to help patients get caught up.

## **Communicating with Parents:**

Looking for some inspiration to encourage parents to get their children immunized?

Start with the presumptive approach. That is, assume parents will immunize their children.

"I see that Lucas is now 11 years old and entering 7th grade! Before you leave today, I will be immunizing Lucas with all of the shots required for school and others recommended for his age to protect against whooping cough, cancers caused by HPV, and meningococcal meningitis."

"Sofia just turned 4 and there are several immunizations that are recommended for her age that are very important. I'll get those ready for you now, so I can give them to her before you leave today. As her doctor, I want to make sure she's protected against dangerous diseases."

## If parents are still hesitant, listen to each of their concerns and address them. You can also reassure them by saying:

**Connect parent to parent:** "I immunized my own children and it is one of the best decisions I have made as a parent. I want nothing less for Emma, and this is why I strongly recommend these immunizations for her today."

**Share a personal story:** "I have seen firsthand what these diseases can do to a child. This year's measles outbreaks are a key reminder of how quickly diseases can spread when children aren't vaccinated."

Please see <u>this guide</u> and these <u>key messages</u> for more ideas. Thank you for your continued efforts in protecting California's children against vaccine-preventable diseases.



California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch