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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

FROM: Sarah Royce, MD, MPH, Chief 
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Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: 2019 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons 0 Through 18 Years

BACKGROUND

The [2019 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years](#) has been approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. A summary of the updates and changes to the 2019 immunization schedule was published in the [February 8, 2019 MMWR](#).

This communication highlights a summary of changes in the new published Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule and its new format redesign. It also includes important reminders about ACIP vaccine recommendations and VFC Program participation, prenatal vaccination, and educational resources for your practice.

Providers are strongly encouraged to [print](#) and carefully review the 2019 immunization schedule tables and notes with all staff, especially those who order and administer vaccines. Please recycle older versions of the schedule. Note, unlike previous years, the CA VFC Program will not print and distribute copies of this year's schedule.

NEW OVERALL APPEARANCE OF THE 2019 IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES AND TABLES

The 2019 Immunization schedule has undergone a redesign. It has a new format, and although it now has a total of 8 pages, it compartmentalizes the information for easier reference and access. Recommended vaccines are displayed in [Table 1 by age](#), in [Table 2 by catch-up schedule](#), and in [Table 3 by medical indication](#), including pregnancy.



Download the "[CDC Vaccine Schedule](#)" app. The 2019 Version of the Schedules App will be available for free download in early March 2019. The app provides immediate access within a few clicks to the child, adolescent, and adult ACIP recommendations on any smartphone or tablet.

UPDATES TO THE 2019 IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Changes in the 2019 schedule are summarized at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/schedule-changes.html>. We encourage providers to review the details carefully. The updates include:

- **Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV):** In keeping with recommendations made after the 2018 schedule was published, and applicable to the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 influenza seasons, the option of immunizing with LAIV in healthy persons 2-49 years is included in the 2019 schedule. A separate row has been added for LAIV in Table 1 to distinguish it from inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV). A new row also has been added to Table 3.
- **Hepatitis A Vaccine Before International travel:** A section for international travel has been added with recommendation for vaccination against Hepatitis A for travelers 6-11 months (similar to the recommendations for MMR vaccine before travel) and unvaccinated travelers aged ≥ 12 months.
- **Tdap:** The Tdap note has been updated to indicate those who receive a dose of Tdap or diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP) at age 7-10 years inadvertently or as part of the catch-up series should still receive the routine doses of Tdap at age 11-12 years.

PRENATAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADOLESCENTS

Table 3, Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedules by Medical Condition, includes a pregnancy indication column to highlight recommendations for each vaccine. Certain vaccines are recommended during pregnancy to protect the woman and her baby after birth. Babies rely on the antibodies passed to them during development. If your practice serves adolescent populations, including pregnant adolescents, please make a strong recommendation for vaccination.

- **Tdap:** Pertussis (whooping cough) is a highly contagious bacterial disease that can be spread by coughing. Because pertussis has a cyclic nature and the last peak year was 2014, another peak year is expected soon. Infants younger than 2 months old cannot be vaccinated against pertussis and are at greatest risk for life-threatening cases of pertussis. To protect newborns, pregnant women are recommended to receive Tdap vaccine at the earliest opportunity between 27-36 weeks of every pregnancy. On Table 1, the 13-18 years age range highlights catch-up vaccination (green bar) and use in pregnant adolescents (purple bar).
- **Influenza:** Pregnant women and their babies are especially susceptible to flu and its potentially severe side effects. Changes in a woman's immune system, heart,

and lungs during pregnancy make her more prone to developing serious illness from flu, which can lead to hospitalization or even death. Flu may also lead to pregnancy complications. Infants younger than 6 months cannot receive their own influenza vaccination. Annual influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older, including pregnant women. A flu shot can be administered during any trimester.

- **Men B:** Table 3 indicates precaution for vaccine administration during pregnancy. This vaccine may be indicated if the benefit of protection outweighs the risk of an adverse reaction.
- **HPV:** Table 3 **includes** a new pink color in the legend, which represents “Delay vaccination until after pregnancy if vaccine indicated.”

VFC PARTICIPATION AND ACIP RECOMMENDED VACCINES

The VFC Program entitles eligible children to all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). In keeping with your VFC provider agreement, providers must:

- Comply with the recommended 2019 immunization schedule, dosages, and contraindications recommended by ACIP;
- Distribute the most current vaccine information statement for all vaccines included in the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NCVIA);
- Make vaccines available based on patient populations served (including non-routine vaccines);
- Have a process in place for informing staff of changes to ACIP recommendations;
- Report adverse event reactions to VAERS.

COMING SOON: VFC’S ‘Afternoon TEAch’ Webinar on the 2019 Schedule

Please save the date: March 27, 2019, from noon to 1:00 PM. The first ‘Afternoon TEAch’ webinar of 2019 will feature an update on the 2019 Pediatric and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, highlighting updates and key changes in formatting and recommendations.

Afternoon TEAch webinars are offered free of charge at noon several times each year to enrolled VFC providers. They cover a variety of immunization topics to help providers and their staff stay in daily immunization work. View archived Afternoon TEAch webinars at <http://eziz.org/resources/afternoon-teach/>.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please call your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Program at 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC) or visit www.eziz.org.