



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

To: Immunization Program Coordinators  
California Immunization Coalition members  
VFC Providers

**February 2017**

**Lead Story: Partnerships to Prevent HPV Cancers**

**Statewide Campaigns**

- Preteen Vaccine Week 2017 Coming Up!
- Planning Starting for NIIW/TIM
- New Stories at ShotByShot.org

**VPD News**

- Measles Outbreak in Los Angeles
- Flu IS Widespread and More Severe This Year

**Vaccine News**

- ACIP Recommends HPV Vaccine 2-Dose Schedule

**Vaccine News Cont'd**

- No Association Between Maternal Tdap and Microcephaly
- No Association Between Adverse Birth Outcomes and Maternal Tdap

**CAIR News**

- CAIR2 Update

**Provider Education**

- Prenatal Tdap Letters Support Providers
- CIC Summit April 3-4

**Provider Education Cont'd**

- Effective Communication Improves HPV Vaccination
- CDPH Kicks Off APhi
- Increasing Immunization Rates Through OB-GYN Partnerships

**Assessment News**

- Fall 2016 School and Child Care Immunization Data Coming Soon!

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**New Materials and Online Resources**

**Partnerships to Prevent HPV Cancers**

About 12,000 US woman are diagnosed with cervical cancer annually, but the disease is highly preventable with vaccination and screening. We can all start the year by improving Human Papilloma-Virus (HPV) vaccine completion rates! Last fall, the Immunization Branch sent out a [letter](#) to California providers showing the completion rate for 3 doses at 48% for females and 30% for males ages 13-17, compared to rates for the rate for 2 doses at 60% for females and 42% for males the same ages. With the new 2-dose schedule for younger adolescents ages 9-14 years, we now have a tremendous opportunity to improve HPV vaccination completion rates.

As part of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and California Department of Public Health pilot project, three clinics in Napa, Vacaville, and El Cajon, will test the effectiveness of a text and email reminder system for parents of adolescents. The system provides an alternative for clinics that do not have provider recall in their electronic health records.

Here are three things every HPV immunization advocate can do!

1. [Register](#) for our upcoming webinar *“Be An HPV Vaccination Champion”* on February 21.
2. **Share new stories of cervical cancer survivors** and an Ob-GYN physician with your colleagues. [Tamika’s Story](#), [Christine’s Story](#), and [Dr. Linda Duska’s Story](#) are available from [ShotByShot.org](#) in collaboration with the National HPV Vaccine Roundtable. Take one to a meeting, community event, or play in your clinic’s waiting room. Be a cervical cancer prevention champion!



**Christine’s Story**

3. **Download the [STEPS Guide](#).** Learn clinical best practices for quality improvement specific to increasing HPV vaccination rates, developed by the National HPV Vaccine Roundtable.

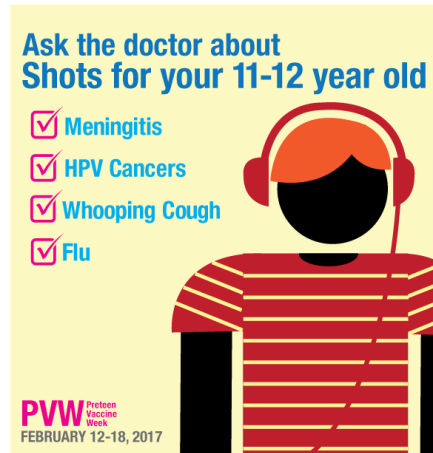
## Statewide Campaign

### Preteen Vaccine Week 2017 Coming Up!

Mark February 12-18 for Preteen Vaccine Week (PVW), an opportunity to focus on preteen vaccines (meningococcal, human papillomavirus [HPV], pertussis, and influenza). Visit the [Preteen Vaccine Week](#) webpage to find key resources:

- [Campaign Kit](#)
- [Web Banners](#) and [Infographics](#)
- [Talking Points](#)
- [Suggested Social Media Messages](#)

For more information, contact [Jane.Pezua@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Jane.Pezua@cdph.ca.gov).



### Planning Started for NIIW/TIM

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) 2017 will be April 22-27 and California's Toddler Immunization Month (TIM) follows in May. The Immunization Branch has developed an [online toolkit](#) that includes templates, banners, educational materials, and related resources. The [CDC NIIW](#) page also has an NIIW toolkit. To get involved or learn more, contact [Kerdlyn.Henry@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Kerdlyn.Henry@cdph.ca.gov).

### New Stories at ShotByShot.org!

The California Immunization Coalition's ShotByShot.org story collection has received several new contributions. Consider using these for your ongoing immunization education needs:

- [Gianna's Story](#) (flu, written)
- [Marcelina's Story](#) (flu, written)
- [Facing HPV](#) (Cervical Cancer/HPV, video)

ShotByShot.org shares and promotes stories on vaccine-preventable diseases. "Like" ShotByShot.org on Facebook, or consider becoming a ShotbyShot social media "booster." For more information, contact [Tammy.Pilisuk@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Tammy.Pilisuk@cdph.ca.gov).



Gianna's Story

## VPD News

### Measles Outbreak, Southern California

As of February 1, there have been 24 cases in a measles outbreak in Southern CA. To date, Los Angeles County has 18 outbreak related cases, Santa Barbara County has one, and Ventura Counties has five. The outbreak cases range in age from 16 months to 52 years. Twenty infected persons were unvaccinated, three had self-reported vaccination, and only one had documented vaccination. Cases shared several exposure venues, including households, schools, health care facilities, and religious settings.

## Flu is widespread and more severe this year

Influenza has been widespread in California and more severe than last year. On January 20, CDPH issued a [press release](#) on the first child influenza death of the season, which occurred in Riverside County. Since the beginning of influenza season, CDPH has received reports of 31 influenza-associated deaths. This count is a fraction of the total flu deaths in California because only deaths in people ≤ 65 years are reported to the state. Hospitals statewide have been impacted by a surge in influenza patients, and hospitalizations for pneumonia and influenza at Kaiser Permanente hospitals in Northern California during the week ending January 21 reached 7.9%, which is above the expected level for this time of year. CDPH has also received reports of 108 influenza outbreaks, mostly in long-term care facilities, more than twice the reports received in recent years. Over 59,000 specimens have been tested from 54 participating sentinel public health and laboratory sites across the state. For updates, refer to the [CDPH Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report](#).

We encourage providers to vaccinate all patients ages 6 months and over, including pregnant women. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 40% of the public has been vaccinated so far this season. Non-profit providers who are exhausting their flu vaccine supplies, are encouraged to contact their [local health department](#) about the possibility of securing additional influenza vaccine doses.

## Vaccine News

### ACIP Recommends 2-Dose HPV Schedule

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) now recommends that girls and boys ages 9 through 14 years receive 2 doses of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, with dose 2 administered 6-12 months after the first dose (5 months minimum interval). Patients age 15 years or older or younger patients with immunocompromising conditions are recommended to complete a 3-dose schedule. [Read more.](#)

### HPV-9: Immunogenicity of 2 doses vs. 3 doses

For more than 1,500 boys and girls age 9 to 14 years, 2 doses of HPV vaccine with an interval of 6-12 months was non-inferior to the 3-dose HPV vaccine schedule. [Read more.](#)

### ACIP Recommends MenACWY for HIV+ Persons

ACIP now routinely recommends meningococcal conjugate vaccine (serogroups A, C, W, and Y), including booster doses, for persons aged ≥2 months with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. HIV-infected people are at a five- to 24-fold increased risk of contracting meningococcal disease. [Read more.](#)

### No Association Between Maternal Tdap and Microcephaly

Researchers examined structural birth defects in babies born to over 300,000 women receiving Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccination from 27 to 36 weeks gestation between 2010 and 2013 in California and other states. There was no association between microcephaly or other birth defects and receipt of Tdap. [Read more.](#)

### No Association Between Adverse Birth Outcomes and Maternal Tdap

In a study of 29,000 pregnancies, no association was found between Tdap vaccination in the past 2 to 5 years and adverse birth outcomes. [Read more.](#)

### CAIR2 Update

We're moving together to CAIR2  
Bigger Better Faster

The new CAIR2 platform rolled out last October in the Northern California, Greater Sacramento, Central Coast, and Inland Empire regions. Our many thanks go out to CAIR users during Stage 1 who patiently helped us identify bugs in CAIR2. After a brief delay to fix the bugs, the CAIR2 Stage 2 rollout for the Bay Area and Central Valley will occur this month. Stage 2 and later users can expect to have the advantage of all that we learned to help CAIR2 deliver the bigger, better, faster immunization registry we've all been waiting for! Stay tuned for updates at [www.CAIRweb.org](http://www.CAIRweb.org).

## Provider Education

### Prenatal Tdap Letters Support Providers to Prevent Infant Pertussis

Vaccinating pregnant women with tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine at the earliest opportunity between 27-36 weeks gestation of every pregnancy is recommended to prevent pertussis in infants too young to be vaccinated.

To support this standard of care, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) developed a [Prenatal Tdap Program letter](#) outlining how prenatal care providers should provide a strong recommendation or strong referral for Tdap to ensure pregnant patients and their babies are protected against pertussis. The letter emphasizes that offering Tdap, regardless of payor, is a standard of practice that every prenatal care provider must follow. To reach prenatal care providers, the letter was sent to a number of provider organizations and publicized in this month's [Medi-Cal Newsflash](#). In addition, CDPH collaborated with other provider organizations on a [letter to birth hospitals](#) that experienced a high incidence of infant pertussis in 2013-14. This letter offers recommendations to hospitals to facilitate prenatal Tdap vaccination.

### 2017 CIC Summit, April 3-4

[Registration](#) is open for the 2017 California Immunization Coalition (CIC) Summit, *Delivering on the Promise of Vaccines*, in Riverside, April 3-4. This year's speakers, include Elena Conis, PhD, author of *Vaccine Nation*; Peter Szilagyi, MD, MPH, pediatric health services and clinical researcher; and Sarah Royce, MD, MPH, Chief, CDPH Immunization Branch. There will also be a screening of the film *Hilleman: A Perilous Quest to Save the World's Children*.



### Effective Communication Improves HPV Vaccination



In a recent study, an “announcement” (also known as the *presumptive* approach) by providers resulted in an improvement (average 5.6%) in HPV vaccination initiation rates for preteens ages 11-12 years. [Read more.](#)

In a separate study, researchers identified several messages that motivate parents to receive HPV vaccine, which providers could incorporate into their communication practice. [Read more.](#)

## CDPH Kicks Off Adolescent Preventive Health Initiative

Our New Year's resolution? Better adolescent health! The Immunization Branch is joining the Sexually-Transmitted Disease Prevention Branch, Tobacco Control, Asthma, Nutrition and Obesity Prevention, and other CDPH programs in a new Adolescent Preventive Health Initiative (APHI).

Other partners include Medi-Cal Managed Care (MMC) health plans and large primary care practices, including pediatric practices and Federally Qualified Health Centers. APHI's goal will be to link California health plans and primary care providers serving adolescent patients with CDPH subject matter experts and quality improvement support to increase the proportion of young people receiving recommended preventive health services. For more information, contact [Holly.Howard@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Holly.Howard@cdph.ca.gov)



## Increasing Immunization Rates through OB-GYN Partnerships

The [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) (ACOG) is working with 10 Obstetrician-Gynecologist (OB-GYN) practices in Los Angeles County to improve adult immunization rates. The 3-year project aims to empower OB-GYN providers to routinely screen, immunize, and document vaccines for their adult patients by identifying interventions that will improve workflow. Sites receive support to make strong recommendations to vaccinate, improve assessment and documentation, and refer for immunizations not provided in their own office.



To date, sites are collaborating with the Los Angeles Department of Public Health to gain tips and resources on immunization (e.g., educational materials). During 2017, practices must enroll in CAIR and adopt other best practice strategies (e.g., standing orders, provider prompts, and routinely documenting immunizations in their electronic health record systems). Thanks to ACOG for their leadership!

## Branch Staff Updates

**Colleen Mallen** is the Branch's new Supervisor for Field Services based in San Diego. Colleen has been working for the VFC program since 2007 and is a new mom! She earned her MPH from San Jose State University and has a BA in Sociology from Sonoma State.

**Roland Rafol** is our new Associate Governmental Program Analyst. Roland has nearly 25 years in state service; previously he worked at the CDPH Infectious Diseases Branch. Roland attended Contra Costa Community College.

**Michael Fortunka** is a new Office Technician with 14 years of administrative and analytical experience. Previously, he worked at Verse Engineering. Michael has a BA in Economics from UC Davis.



## Events, Conferences, and Observances

Date	Event	Partners/ Sponsors
February 21 12:00-1:00pm	<a href="#">Be An HPV Vaccination Champion: Updated Recommendations, Communic. Strategies &amp; Resources</a>	CDPH, the American Cancer Society, and PAC-LAC
April 3-4 Riverside, CA	<a href="#">California Immunization Coalition Summit , “Delivering on the Promise of Vaccines”</a>	California Immunization Coalition
April 11-13, Chicago, IL	<a href="#">AIRA Annual Meeting: “Advancing IIS Together”</a>	American Immunization Registry Association
June 18-21 Long Beach, CA	<a href="#">National School-Based Health Care Convention,</a>	School-Based Health Alliance

## New Online Resources

New Materials/Online Resources	Type of resource
<b>Influenza Materials for 2016-17</b>	
<a href="#">Influenza During Pregnancy Toolkit</a> (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists--ACOG)	Toolkit
<a href="#">Child Care Worker Flyer</a> (English) / <a href="#">Spanish</a>	Flyer
<b>Vaccine Information Misc.</b>	
<a href="#">HPV-9 Vaccine Information Statement</a> updated (CDC)	Factsheet
<a href="#">Meningococcal vaccine timing</a> (routine risk) IMM-1217	Chart
<a href="#">Meningococcal vaccine timing</a> (high-risk) IMM-1218	Chart
<a href="#">Pneumococcal timing chart children</a> IMM-1159	Chart
<a href="#">Mid-Course Review of the 2010 National Vaccine Plan</a> (US Dept. Health and Human Services)	Report
<a href="#">Confidentiality and Privacy Considerations for IIS</a> (American Immunization Registry Assn.)	White Paper
<a href="#">Middleschoolhealth.org</a> (National HPV Vaccine Roundtable)	Website
<b>Webinars/Online Training</b>	
<b>Flu and Pneumococcal Vaccines</b>	
<a href="#">What’s New for the 2016-2027 Flu Season?</a> (CDC)	
<a href="#">Influenza Prevention in US Adults Age 65 Years and Older</a> (National Foundation for Infectious Diseases--NFID)	
<a href="#">Reducing the Burden of Pneumococcal Infection through Vaccination</a> (NFID)	
<b>HPV Vaccine</b>	
<a href="#">HPV Vaccine Schedule Change Update: What it Means and How to Implement Today!</a> (CDC)	
<a href="#">Recommendations for HPV Vaccination 2016 Update</a> (CDC)	
<a href="#">HPV Prevention &amp; Treatment in Special Populations: FAQ Panel</a> (Assoc. of Reproductive Health Professionals)	
<b>Prenatal Vaccines</b>	
<a href="#">Integrating Immunizations into Ob-gyn Practice: Practical Tips and Resources</a> (ACOG)	
<a href="#">Providing Strong and Reassuring Recommendations for Prenatal Vaccinations</a> (CIC)	
<b>Immunization Registry</b>	
<a href="#">Getting Meaningful Use Stage 3 Ready</a> (AIRA)	