



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

August 2013

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Tdap During Late Pregnancy to Protect Young Infants

Pertussis is a continuing threat to Californians. Over 9,100 cases of pertussis, including 10 fatal infant cases, were reported in California during 2010—the most in more than a half-century. Consistent with historical cycles of 3-5 years, pertussis cases are likely to increase again between 2013-15.



Infants younger than two months of age are most susceptible to hospitalization or death from pertussis. This leaves a window of vulnerability since DTaP vaccine is not recommended until at least 6 weeks. However, infants can be protected by the mother's antibodies transferred through the placenta. Early evidence suggests that vaccinating pregnant women with Tdap in the third trimester can prevent pertussis in young infants.

To maximize protection of young infants, the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that all women should be administered Tdap during every pregnancy, regardless of previous Tdap status, preferably between 27 and 36 weeks' gestation.

If Tdap is not administered during pregnancy, it should be given immediately postpartum. This will not provide direct protection to the infant, but may prevent transmission of pertussis from mother to infant. More information is on the [CDC website](#). Pertussis informing materials are on [the EZIZ website](#).

Statewide Immunization Campaigns

Celebrate NIAM!

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)! This year, NIAM organizers are promoting weekly targeted messages; templates are available in the National Public Health Information Coalition's [NIAM Toolkit](#).



- **Week 1** Back-to-school for college students
- **Week 2** Back-to-school for K-12 students
- **Week 3** Adult Immunization (Immunizations are not just for kids!)
- **Week 4** Pregnant Women IZ (A Healthy Start with Tdap and flu vaccines)

The Immunization Branch will support NIAM by sharing messages with California providers, schools, and parents—and creating *Text4Baby* project text messages that encourage pregnant women to get a Tdap shot. The California Immunization Coalition's Shot by Shot project will release new VPD stories during August. Many thanks to local health departments and coalition partners participating in NIAM.

2013-14 Flu Informing

About 20% of influenza vaccine doses during the 2013-14 season are projected to be *quadrivalent*. Quadrivalent flu vaccines offer protection against a second type B virus strain—in addition to the two A and single B viruses covered by trivalent vaccine. Depending on which strains are circulating this season, quadrivalent vaccine may provide broader protection. A dose of either trivalent or quadrivalent vaccine is recommended for all persons 6 months of age and older. For more information visit the [CDC flu website](#).



The Immunization Branch will promote influenza vaccination with a different message each week in September:

- **Week 1: General public** *"Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine each year. Get vaccinated today."*
- **Week 2: Child care and school-aged children** *"The single best way to protect your children from the flu is to get them vaccinated each year."*
- **Week 3: Health care workers** *"Protect yourself, your family, and your patients; Get a flu vaccine."*
- **Week 4: Pregnant women** *"Flu can harm you and your baby. Vaccination can protect you both!"*

The Branch invites community partners to align promotional efforts with public health departments. Help spread the word using traditional and new media outlets. Press release templates, talking points, sample social media messages and other resources are on the [EZIZ flu resources webpage](#).

Vaccine News

HPV Vaccine Showing Benefits – Better Immunization Rates Needed

[CDC research](#) finds that, even with suboptimal immunization rates, HPV infection rates in teen girls decreased by 56% between 2003 and 2010. Dr. Anne Schuchat, Director of CDC's Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, discussed the study in an [informative interview](#).



A recent study in the [British Medical Journal](#) showed that HPV-related genital warts declined 93% in females younger than 21 years in Australia after widespread use of the HPV vaccine.

[HPV vaccine uptake](#) in the US has lagged behind other preteen vaccines. Indicators point to missed opportunities to vaccinate during office visits. To assist providers, CDC offers [Tips and Timesavers for Talking with Parents About the HPV Vaccine](#).

Epi Data/Outbreaks

Meningococcal Disease – Antibiotics Indicated for Immunized Close Contacts

CDPH reminds clinicians to offer appropriate antibiotics to close contacts of suspected meningococcal disease cases, even if they have received meningococcal vaccine. US meningococcal vaccines do not protect against serogroup B meningococcal bacteria, which account for about 30% of cases in California. Recent cases of serogroup B meningococcal disease serotype B include immunized adolescents in Southern and Central California.

Close contacts of patients with any serogroup of meningococcal disease, regardless of immunization status, are recommended to receive antibiotic prophylaxis (PEP). Unfortunately, some providers did not offer antibiotic PEP to immunized contacts of recent cases because they mistakenly assumed that immunization alone was adequate.

Measles Strikes Southern California

In July, a German visitor flew to Los Angeles while infectious with measles. He infected two unvaccinated passengers on the plane. One was an Orange County resident and the other was a teenager who was part of a large group of European students visiting Southern California.

CDPH reminds health care providers to suspect measles in anyone presenting with a high fever, cough, or rash illness—particularly if the patient has returned from international travel in the past three weeks. Acute care facilities should take appropriate measures to prevent potential measles exposure to other patients. CDPH [measles alert flyers](#) are available to download. Californians should ensure that they are up-to-date on their MMR vaccinations before traveling abroad.



Updated Varizig® Guidelines from CDC – Window up to 10 days

Designated vulnerable patients are now recommended to receive varicella immune globulin (VariZIG®) *within 10 days* of exposure to varicella zoster virus. The previous ACIP recommendation was for post-exposure prophylactic administration within four days. The change harmonizes the ACIP recommendation with the FDA approval from last year. For more details, see [updated CDC guidelines](#).

Hepatitis A Outbreak: California Response

A recent multistate hepatitis A outbreak was traced to pomegranate seeds, imported from Turkey, found in [Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend](#) and [Woodstock pomegranate kernels](#). As Update goes to press, 158 people in 10 states, including 77 in California, have become ill, but none have died. Thirty-three Californians were hospitalized.



CDPH acted quickly to alert the public and provide up-to-date information. In addition, many local health departments held clinics and offered prophylactic Hepatitis A vaccination to community members who may have ingested the contaminated berries. For more information, visit the [CDC's Outbreak page](#).

CAIR News

CAIR Launches IZ Messaging Portal



The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) Immunization Messaging Portal (IMP) launches this month! IMP will assist providers submitting immunization data electronically to CAIR in seven regions. Regions include Northern California, Greater Sacramento, Bay Area, Central Coast, Central Valley, Los Angeles-Orange, and Inland Empire. The IMP will register clinical sites and Health Information Organizations (HIOs) and distribute data exchange credentials plus follow-up instructions for data submission. The new Portal will assist providers in achieving federal “Meaningful Use” (MU) standards. The IMP can validate incoming test and production messages. It also provides diagnostics and attestations for MU, which shows when submitted messages are valid.

Schools Using CAIR Need to Recertify this Fall

CAIR users in healthcare settings are being requested to recertify annually starting this summer. Coming this fall, schools using CAIR will also be asked to recertify. Details will be announced shortly.

Provider Education

Vaccine Summaries: New Resource from IAC

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) has issued a new series of *Vaccine Summaries* for children, adolescents and adults. These handouts offer information on each specific disease and vaccines used to prevent it. [View or print Vaccine Summaries](#).



ACA News You Can Use

Provisions of the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act \(ACA\)](#) include:

Immunization coverage: Routine, ACIP-recommended immunizations given to children or adults by an in-network provider must be covered *without patient cost-sharing*. For more details, read these [Affordable Care Act FAQs](#).

California's ACA exchange: [Covered California](#) (CC) begins enrollment this fall. Any legal California resident not insured by an employer can shop for a health plan online. The CC website will offer clear comparisons of benefits and costs across plans, and describe subsidies for those meeting income eligibility criteria. Coverage will begin January, 2014.

Medi-Cal expansion: In 2014, adult California residents up to 138% of the federal poverty limit with or without children will qualify for Medi-Cal. The new, broader eligibility is expected to make Medi-Cal available to as many as 1.4 million Californians.

To become more familiar with the ACA, see these helpful resources:

- [About the Law](#) (Department of Health and Human Services)
- [Helping Consumers Understand and Use Health Insurance in 2014](#) (Institute of Medicine)
- [Covered California Fact Sheet](#)



Assessments

Immunization Assessments Start in September

Beginning in early September, child care facilities and schools with kindergarteners or 7th graders may report the immunization status of their students for the 2013-14 school year at www.ShotsForSchool.org.

The Immunization Branch has provided assessment materials to Immunization Coordinators and will share materials with public school districts and private schools by early September.

Mark your calendars with these deadlines:

- **October 1:** Child care reports due
- **October 15:** Kindergarten reports due
- **November 1:** 7th grade reports due

FAQs about assessment reporting:

- **Schools without Internet capability** can request a hard copy from counties.
- **Schools may submit data online only once.** Schools needing to correct a mistake may contact Immunization Coordinators to unlock their report for editing.
- **If a school is not on the online list,** that school will be exempt from reporting *for this year*. Non-listed schools should contact the California Department of Education to confirm that the Department has correct information about their school's grade span, enrollment, and status.



More information is available at www.ShotsForSchool.org/reporting. The Immunization Branch expresses its appreciation to Immunization Coordinators and California schools for completing this annual reporting process. For additional information, contact Kathleen.Abanilla@cdph.ca.gov at (510) 620-3757 or Teresa.Lee2@cdph.ca.gov at (510) 620-3746.

Branch Staff Updates

Rosie Glenn-Finer is a new Research Assistant for the Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine Effectiveness Study. She graduated in May 2013 with a degree in Biology from Macalester College, where she served as Health and Wellness Student Coordinator and performed immunology research.

Cynthia Jean Yen returns to the Branch as an Epidemiologist, supporting communicable disease surveillance and epidemiologic investigations. She has been an Epidemiologist with the Communicable Disease Emergency Response Branch. Cynthia has BA and MPH degrees from UC Berkeley.

In addition, current Branch staff **Janice Louie** (Consultant), **Erin Murray** (Coordinator) and **Catheryn Salibay** (Epidemiologist), are now conducting seasonal influenza surveillance.

Pong Vilaisouk is a new Help Desk Technician serving the CAIR team. Her job duties include assisting with CAIR enrollment and user accounts, and responding to immunization record requests. Before coming to the Branch, Pong worked at the Community Health for Asian Americans (CHAA).

Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Observances

Date	Event	Partners/ Sponsors
August	National Immunization Awareness Month	National Public Health Information Coalition
August 20-22 (Atlanta, GA)	National Conference of Health Communication Marketing and Media	CDC
September 22-24 (Chicago, IL)	National Public Health Information Coalition and Annual Conference	National Public Health Information Coalition
October 7-9 (Denver, CO)	IIS and Public Health Conference	American Immunization Registry Association
October 24-28	National Adult Immunization Awareness Week	CDPH Immunization Branch

New Online Resources

New Print and Web Resources	Type of resource
Tips and Timesavers for Talking with Parents About the HPV Vaccine	Flyer
2013-14 Pediatric and Adult Influenza Vial Chart	Flyer
CDC Grand Rounds: Preventing Unsafe Injection Practices in the U.S. Health-Care System (MMWR 5/31/13)	Report
Strategies for Increasing Adult Immunization Rates (CDC Webpage)	Website
Adult Vaccinations (CDC Webpage)	Website
Modeling of Immunization Registry Operations Workgroup (MIROW) Best Practices Guide (AIRA)	Guidebook
Immunizations and Routine Obstetric and Gynecologic Care: A Guide for Providers and Patients (ACOG)	Guidebook
On-Demand Training	
Protect Newborns: Give birth to the End of Hep B (Immunization Action Coalition, archived program)	Archived webinar
Start Healthy, Stay Healthy, National Immunization Awareness Month (VicNetwork, archived program)	Archived webinar
Using Visual Apps to Connect with Your Target Audience on Social Networks	Archived webinar
Your best Shot: Training Your Staff to Give Safe Injections (SUNY Albany School of Public Health)	Archived webinar
What's New — and Not New — With the Flu: Vaccines, Recommendations and Communication (California Immunization Coalition)	Archived webinar
Overcoming Barriers to Preventing HPV-Related Disease (Medscape)	Archived webinar