



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

**January 2015**

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**California Pertussis Epidemic 2014**

A December article in the [MMWR](#) describes over 9,900 cases of pertussis, including illness in more than 900 infants, reported in California during 2014. Infants were most likely to be hospitalized and Latino infants were disproportionately affected. Three infants died, including two whose disease onset began in 2013.

After infancy, the disease peaked in adolescents ages 14-16. Among 2,006 persons age 14-16 with available data who caught the disease, the vast majority (87%) had been vaccinated, with a median interval of about three years since vaccination. Five (0.2%) in this age group were hospitalized.



A total of 211 mothers (for whom information was complete) had infants younger than 4 months who were hospitalized for pertussis. Among these, only 17% had received the recommended Tdap vaccination during their third trimester of pregnancy. Another 36% were vaccinated after delivery, which is much less helpful to the newborn. Unpublished California birth hospital survey data suggests that only 25% of women received Tdap during pregnancy in 2013. In contrast, in summer 2014 84% of pregnant women receiving prenatal care at Kaiser Permanente facilities in Northern California received prenatal Tdap, indicating that high levels of coverage are feasible, especially when vaccine is readily available and can be given onsite. The final California pertussis disease surveillance data for 2014 will be posted on the [CDPH Pertussis Summary Report page](#).

## Statewide Immunization Campaigns

### Cervical Health Awareness Month

The Immunization Branch is collaborating with the California Immunization Coalition to promote *Cervical Health Awareness Month* in January. The Shot by Shot storybank collection now includes [Carron's Story](#), involving a mother dealing first with a daughter afraid of HPV vaccination and then her own cervical cancer diagnosis. Consider sharing [Shot by Shot cervical cancer stories](#) or Immunization Branch [HPV vaccination materials](#) on your web pages or on social media. Additional materials and ideas include:



Carron's Story

- the [National Health Information Center Toolkit](#)
- the World Health Organization's [Comprehensive Cervical Cancer Control Guide to Essential Practice](#),
- the new documentary, [Someone You Love](#); sign up to learn when it shows in your community.

### Preteen Vaccine Week 2015

Preteen Vaccine Week (PVW) 2015 will be observed February 8 - 14 by local health departments, immunization coalitions, schools, and other partners across California. This year over 25 counties and immunization coalitions are participating.



The theme “*HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention*” was selected based on the latest [NIS-Teen](#) results indicating that rates of receiving all three doses of HPV vaccine remain low. The PVW campaign emphasizes HPV vaccine but promotes all preteen vaccines, including pertussis, meningococcal, HPV, influenza, and varicella vaccines.

View or download patient education materials, the Campaign Kit, suggested social media messages and more on the [Preteen Vaccine Week page](#). Materials also include our award-winning [bilingual fotonovela](#) and HPV vaccine appointment reminder cards—now also available in Spanish!

See our recent article [Prevent Cancer – Recommend HPV Vaccine at Every Opportunity](#) highlighting the importance of a strong provider recommendation on HPV vaccination. For more on the PVW Campaign and how to get involved, contact [Jane.Pezua@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Jane.Pezua@cdph.ca.gov).

### Reaching California's Prenatal Care Providers

The Immunization Branch has partnered with CDPH Genetic Disease Screening Program (GDSP) to prevent pertussis in young infants. Since November 2014, GDSP has shipped over 4,000 copies of the following materials to prenatal care providers:

- “[Immunizations for a Healthy Pregnancy](#)” brochure in English and Spanish
- “[Expecting? Protect your Baby from Whooping Cough](#)” flyers. Providers who want additional copies can order directly from the GDSP's distributor. Contact [Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov) for more information.



## Flu News

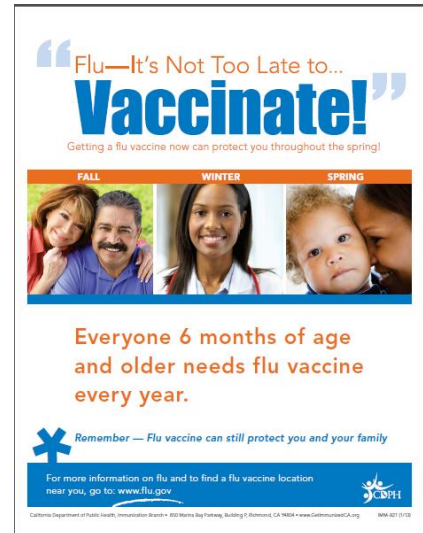
### 2014-15 Flu Season Update

Current disease activity is updated at the [CDPH weekly influenza surveillance report](#). So far this season, the predominant [circulating strains](#) are Influenza A, H3N2, [which has drifted](#) from the strain in the vaccine. This means the vaccine won't be as effective against this strain. Immunization is still recommended, and antiviral medication is recommended for high-risk patients with influenza like illness.

Despite [recent findings](#) that the live attenuated influenza vaccine may not have been effective against the H1N1 strain in 2013-14 season, providers are encouraged to continue vaccinating children with live or injectable influenza vaccine to protect against the predominant A (H3N2) strains.

Influenza vaccine continues to be plentiful in California. Providers are encouraged to promote messages this winter that "It's not too late to get vaccinated." Key points to address concerns include, "The vaccine can still offer cross-protection against different but related strains of influenza viruses" and "We cannot know which viruses will circulate over the season; additional strains may become more prevalent in later months."

The Immunization Branch invites you to use our large selection of [flu and respiratory disease prevention materials](#). CDC's new [Flu and You](#) four-page, plain language handout is available in [multiple languages](#).



## Vaccine News

### Seizures Around the Time of Vaccination – Genetic or Structural Conditions

Landmark research examined children diagnosed with seizure disorders after vaccination by age two. Twenty-three of 26 children studied were found to have an underlying cause for their seizures, typically Dravet's Syndrome, a genetic condition. [Read more](#).

### Safety of Prenatal Pertussis Vaccination

Researchers found no increase in adverse birth outcomes or prenatal hypertention after prenatal Tdap immunization of a large sample of California women cared for by Kaiser Permanente. [Read more](#).

## Provider Education

### Save the Date: IZ Coalition Summit – April 26-27, 2015 in Riverside

The California Immunization Coalition's **2015 Immunization Summit, Ready, Set, Immunize!** will be held April 26-27 at the Mission Inn in Riverside. The gathering will bring together immunization providers and advocates from across the state. [Submit an abstract](#) by January 23 or get more information about the Summit, hotel reservations, and exhibitor registration online at [www.immunizeCa.org](http://www.immunizeCa.org).

## New Videos Help Providers Talk to Vaccine-Hesitant Parents

The WhyImmunizeKids.org Coalition recently released a video series, [Addressing Vaccine-Hesitant Parents: Role-Playing Videos for HealthCare Providers](#). The videos review how to discuss parents' common concerns by demonstrating active listening while also relaying facts. The collection, narrated by Mark Sawyer, MD, covers:

1. **General Vaccine Safety Issues:** Ingredients, Autism, Overwhelming the immune system, Spacing out vaccines.
2. **Isn't Natural Immunity Better?**
3. **Diseases no longer exist or are not that dangerous.**
4. **It's my right to decide what is best for my child & Herd Immunity.**
5. **Why does my newborn need a Hep B vaccination?**



## Updated EZIZ Tools for Vaccine Storage and Handling

The EZIZ lesson, **Storing Vaccines**, has been updated to help clinical staff prepare refrigerators and freezers, store vaccines, and safeguard power supplies.

[What's New in 2015?](#) offers an overview of updated refrigerator and freezer temperature logs in both fahrenheit and celsius. The new job aid suite includes:

### Refrigerators:

Temperature Log: [F°](#) | [C°](#)

How to Record Refrigerator Temperatures: [F°](#) | [C°](#)

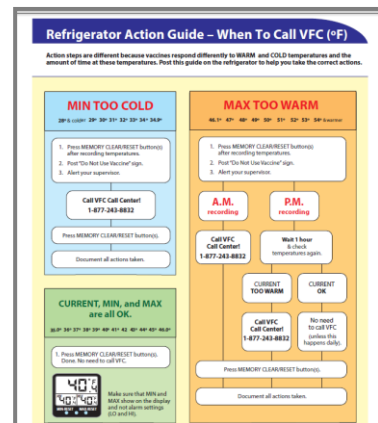
Action Guide: [F°](#) | [C°](#)

### Freezers:

Temperature Log: [F°](#) | [C°](#)

How to Record Freezer Temperatures: [F°](#) | [C°](#)

Action Guide: [F°](#) | [C°](#)



## Assessments

### PBEs Rates Down After First Year of State PBE Law

It's been a year since California's new [state law](#) (AB 2109, Statutes of 2012) went into effect. The law requires parents seeking a personal belief exemption (PBE) from required school immunizations to discuss the risks of their decision with a health care provider and sign a form.

The 2014 CDPH kindergarten immunization assessment reports collected from across the state show that 46 of 58 California counties had fewer PBEs this year compared with 2013. Specifically, the number of parents who filed PBE forms to exempt their kindergarteners from vaccinations dropped by 20% from 2013 to 2014. That is, about 2.5% of kindergarten children opted out this school year compared with 3.1% last year. For child care enrollees the PBE rate was 2.7%, down from 2.9% in 2013.

Seventh graders' PBE rate (collected since 2011 only) fell most, from 3.3% in 2013 to 2.1% in 2014. The changes mark the first decline in PBEs in a decade and is one indicator that we may be able to protect more children from preventable diseases. Find final 2014 assessment reports [online](#).



## Branch Staff Updates

**Brooke Bregman** is the Branch's new Senior Epidemiologist in charge of data management. Previously, she worked at San Joaquin County Public Health Services. Brooke earned her MPH from San Diego State University and her BA from Brandeis University.

**Mark Gallivan** is the new Branch Epidemiologist serving as technical lead for the influenza surveillance program. Mark has worked at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and CDPH TB Control Branch. He has an MPH from the University of Washington and a BS from the University of Minnesota.

**Christina Moore** is the Branch's new Influenza Surveillance Coordinator. Christina has interned with CDPH STD Control Branch and Immunization Branch. She recently earned her MPH in Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology from UC Berkeley, where she also received a BS in Microbial Biology.

**Shrimati Datta** is the Branch's new Project Coordinator, working on meningococcal disease surveillance and related projects. Shrimati previously interned with the Branch's health educators and worked with the epi team. She has a PhD in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology from UC Irvine and an MPH from Johns Hopkins University.

## Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Observances

Date	Event	Partners/ Sponsors
January 2015	<a href="#">National Cervical Health Awareness Month</a>	National Cervical Cancer Coalition
February 8-14	<a href="#">Preteen Vaccine Week</a>	CDPH
April 18-25	<a href="#">National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)</a>	CDC
April 21-23 New Orleans LA	<a href="#">AIRA's 2015 IIS National Meeting</a>	American Immunization Registry Assn.
April 26-27 Riverside CA	<a href="#">CIC Summit 2015: Ready, Set, Vaccinate!</a>	California Immunization Coalition

## New Online Resources

New Materials/Online Resources	Type of resource
<a href="#">65 +, You Need Two Pneumonia Shots</a> (new from CDPH)	Flyer
<a href="#">Vaccine Safety 10 Facts</a> (now in Spanish from CDPH)	Fact Sheet
<a href="#">HPV flyer</a> (now in Spanish from CDPH)	Flyer
<a href="#">HPV poster</a> (now in Spanish from CDPH)	Poster
HPV reminder appt. cards (now in Spanish from CDPH)	Postcards (order from your <a href="#">CA local health department</a> )
<a href="#">HPV: A Parents' Guide to HPV Vaccination</a> also in <a href="#">Spanish</a> (Imm. Action Coalition)	Flyer
<a href="#">Addressing Vaccine-Hesitant Parents: Role-Playing Videos for HealthCare Providers</a> (WhyImmunizeKids.Org Coalition)	Videos
<a href="#">Does Our Community Have Immunity?</a> (Voices for Vaccines)	Report
<a href="#">Ebola Poster (English)</a>   <a href="#">(Spanish)</a> (updated from CDPH)	Poster
<a href="#">Confusion Abounds: 2-Year Summary Report of ISMP National Vaccine Error Reporting Program</a> (Institute for Safe Medication Practices)	Report
<b>Webinars/Online Training</b>	<b>Archived Webinars</b>
<a href="#">Current Issues in Immunization (Influenza)</a>	CDC Net Conference
<a href="#">HPV Vaccination: Insights from States with Highest &amp; Lowest HPV Vaccination Rates</a>	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CTSE)
<a href="#">Five Key Steps to Improve HPV Vaccination Rates in Your Practice</a>	CTSE