



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

April 2015

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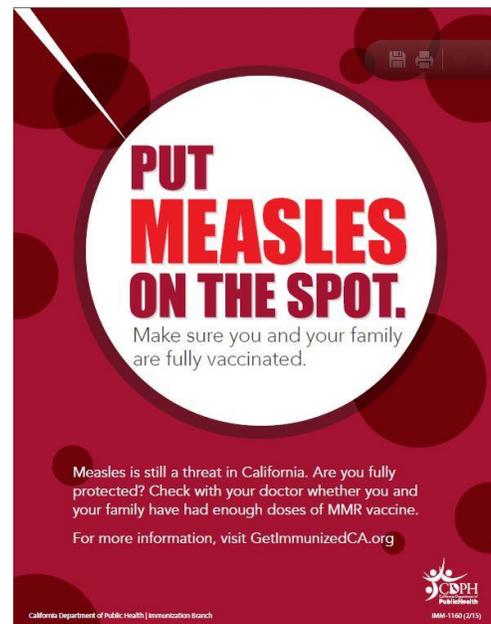
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Measles Outbreak

Since December 2014, at least 177 people in the US—including 134 in California— have been infected with measles, many from the outbreak that started at the Disneyland theme park. Orange County has had the most cases, and 14 other health jurisdictions reported cases. The outbreak spread to [7 additional states](#), Canada, and Mexico. Local health jurisdictions have been vigilant with disease control measures. In California, health department staff met weekly with CDPH by telephone to advise and facilitate surveillance and contact investigation activities, specimen collecting, and reporting. CDPH laboratories tested specimens from across the state. CDPH keeps the health care community and general public up-to-date by posting its [latest measles surveillance updates online](#).

In an early response to the outbreak, CDPH released a [measles health advisory](#) in February, updated several materials, and its website. Find all the [latest measles materials](#) online, including the new [Put Measles on the Spot](#) poster. Measles materials were sent to vaccinating providers across California. As the Philippines and Vietnam have both experienced large measles outbreaks in the past year, the Branch worked with representative consulates and community organizations to inform travelers about measles and measles prevention.



IZ Branch Welcomes New Chief!



The Immunization Branch is very pleased to announce the arrival of our new Branch Chief, Sarah Royce, MD, MPH. Dr. Royce has been working at the California Department of Health Care Services overseeing quality improvement activities for eight million Medi-Cal Managed Care enrollees. From 1992-2008, she served as Chief of the CDPH Tuberculosis Control Branch. She then worked on global Tuberculosis and HIV prevention at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and the World Health Organization. Dr. Royce attended medical school at UCSF and completed her MPH at UC Berkeley. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Royce!

Epi Data/Outbreaks

Infant Pertussis Deaths Continue – Promote Prenatal Immunization

Three California infants died of pertussis in 2014, including two whose disease onset began the previous year. Three deaths have occurred so far in 2015. CDPH has [pertussis educational materials for pregnant women](#) in English and [Spanish](#). Order print materials from your California [local health department](#). Find the most up-to-date pertussis surveillance reports on the [CDPH Pertussis Summary Reports page](#).



California Seasonal Influenza Surveillance

After widespread influenza during much of January and February, influenza in California began to decrease in March. The vast majority of influenza cases were caused by A (H3N2) strains. Over 60% of hospitalizations reported by sentinel influenza sites occurred in adults older than age 65 years. At least 216 influenza outbreaks, with 50 fatalities, have been reported. [Weekly Influenza surveillance reports](#) for California are posted online by CDPH during influenza season.



Statewide Campaign

NIIW 2015 Coming Up in April!

“Immunization: Power to Protect” is the theme of National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), April 18 - 25, 2015 and Toddler Immunization Month (TIM) in May. With the recent measles and pertussis outbreaks in California, this is an excellent time to remind families to schedule visits for infants and toddlers to get immunized against dangerous diseases such as measles, pertussis, and influenza.

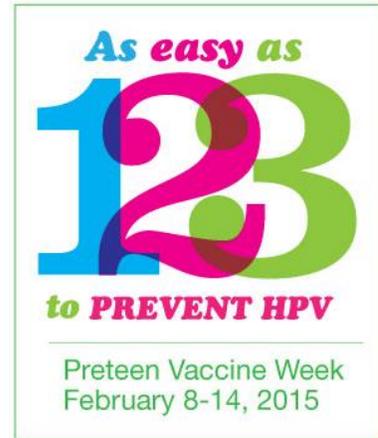


This year, California local health departments, coalitions, and other partners will focus on improving immunization rates at child care centers. The [Shots for School website map](#) lists immunization rates at [child care centers](#). Search by zip code or facility/school name to view rates in your area. Download CDPH’s [NIIW online toolkit](#) for templates, banners, and educational materials to promote childhood and maternal immunization activities. For more information, contact Kerdlyn.Henry@cdph.ca.gov.

Preteen Vaccine Week 2015 a Success!

The Immunization Branch thanks local health departments (LHDs) and community partners participating in [Preteen Vaccine Week](#) (PVW) 2015. Partners included Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health programs; local health plans, immunization coalitions, schools, libraries, and Girl Scouts troops. The most popular materials included HPV vaccine appointment reminder cards, the [“How Important is HPV Vaccine?”](#) flyer, and the posters [“Parents: Did You Know HPV Causes...?”](#) and [“Protect Their Health for the Years Ahead.”](#)

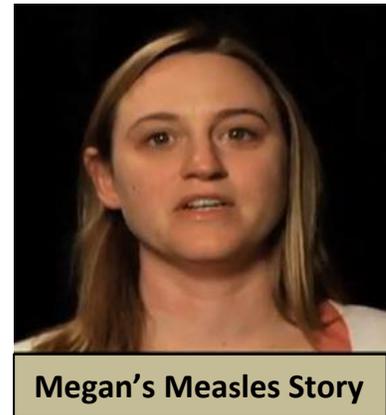
To build on the momentum of PVW, LHDs would like to connect with additional youth organizations, physician groups, and school nurses. If you can help, contact Jane.Pezua@cdph.ca.gov.



New Stories on Shot by Shot

The Shot by Shot collection has added five new testimonials on vaccine-preventable diseases. Take a moment to see the latest additions. The new stories include:

- [Megan’s Story](#) (measles)
- [Gigi’s Story](#) (influenza)
- [Ayzlee’s Story](#) (influenza, written)
- [Mark’s Story](#) (pneumococcal disease)
- [Ian’s Story](#) (pertussis, written)



Gigi’s Story was the Immunization Action Coalition’s “video of the week,” linked by CDC, and promoted by the National Influenza Summit. Shot by Shot stories may be shared at meetings, observances, or informing opportunities with the public. Email info@shotbyshot.org for more information.

Vaccine News

February 2015 ACIP Votes

I) Meningococcal B vaccines

At its February 2015 meeting, the federal Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend two meningococcal serogroup B vaccines Bexsero® (Novartis) and Trumenba® (Pfizer) for patients at high risk, including persons with any of the following: [complement deficiencies](#), asplenia, exposures during outbreaks or working with meningococcal bacteria in the laboratory. Whether to expand the definition of high-risk groups to college students will be discussed at the June 2015 meeting. Bexsero® is given in a two dose series and Trumenba® is given in three doses. Both are approved for ages 10 - 25 years but can be given to high-risk persons older than 25 years. [Read more.](#)



II) 9-Valent HPV vaccine

ACIP also voted to recommend the new 9-valent HPV vaccine (Gardasil-9® Merck) for young women ages 9 - 26 years and young men ages 9 -21 years, similar to current recommendations for the quadrivalent HPV vaccine. The 9-valent HPV vaccine is [effective](#), safe, and cost-effective for both males and females. Persons who have completed the HPV4 vaccine series are not recommended to receive additional doses of HPV9. [Read more.](#)

III) No Preference for LAIV vs. IIV in Children This Fall

ACIP has suspended its preference for Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) for children age 2 through 8 years based on the estimated effectiveness of LAIV during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons. For 2015-16, providers may use either inactivated vaccine or LAIV. [Read more.](#)

Comparative Effectiveness of High-Dose vs. Standard Flu Vaccines for Adults 65+

The high-dose influenza vaccine was 22% more effective than the standard-dose vaccine in preventing probable flu infections or hospitalization for over two million Medicare beneficiaries. [Read more.](#)

Safety of Influenza Vaccination During Pregnancy

A meta-analysis of over 11,000 pregnant women and 380,000 unvaccinated controls found no risks to mother or infant after influenza immunization. [Read more.](#)

Missed Opportunities for Tetanus PEP, California 2008 – 2014

During January 2008 - March 2014, 21 tetanus cases were reported in California; five (24%) were fatal. Among nine patients with acute injuries, only two patients received postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) with Tetanus Toxoid (TT) vaccine or TT vaccine plus Tetanus Immune Globulin (TIG), as recommended. The authors conclude that all providers who care for patients with wounds should have protocols for tetanus PEP and ensure that patients have had tetanus-containing vaccine in prior 10 years. [Read more.](#)

Provider Education

CA Immunization Coalition Summit April 26-27

The California Immunization Summit will be hosted this month at Riverside's historic Mission Inn. The Summit brings together public and private organizations that are collaboratively promoting immunization in California. The Keynote speaker will be Dr. Bill Atkinson, formerly of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A Sunday workshop focuses on



practical strategies for providers speaking with vaccine-hesitant parents. Monday's panels and breakout sessions will discuss the measles outbreak, use of mobile technology, best practices for school immunization, and much more. See www.immunizeca.org for registration and details.

Tdap Prescription Pad Pilot Results Are In!

An Immunization Branch pilot study found that pregnant women who received a pre-printed prescription from their provider were more likely to get prenatal Tdap, perceiving immunization as being more important and urgent.

Providers may order Tdap Prescription Pads (IMM-1143) from their nearest California [local health department](#). Immunization Coordinators are encouraged to distribute them to prenatal care providers *who do not stock Tdap on-site*. For more information, contact Jane.Pezua@cdph.ca.gov.

A form for a Tdap Prescription Pad. It features a large "Rx" symbol in the top left corner. The form includes fields for "Prescriber Name, Address, Phone Number:", "Patient Name:", and "Date:". Below these are two checkboxes for "Vaccines recommended during pregnancy": "Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis [whooping cough]) during 3rd trimester 0.5 mL IM x 1" and "Inactivated Influenza 0.5 mL IM x 1". There are also fields for "Prescriber's Signature:" and "License #:". At the bottom, there is a note: "These vaccines may be available from your primary care physician, local health department, or pharmacy. To find a nearby location, please visit www.vaccine.healthmap.org." and a footer: "Your baby is counting on you for protection. Get vaccinated. IMM-1143 (7/14)".

California Billables Training Coming Soon!

The Immunization Branch will soon be debuting a new online training course for California local health department staff working in public health clinics. The training is designed to help staff in various capacities—from those helping patients at reception, to personnel handling billing, invoicing, contracts, and clinicians who code patient records. The training supports the directive that, when serving patients who have some form of insurance coverage, immunization services may only be provided if their insurance can be billed.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the California Billables Project website. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with the title "California Billables Project" and links for HOME, ABOUT BILLABLES, YOUR CURRICULUM, JOB AIDS, CONTACT US, and SIGN IN. Below the navigation bar is a large photograph of four diverse healthcare professionals (three women and one man) smiling. Underneath the photo, the heading reads "Introducing the California Billables Online Training". A short paragraph follows, stating that the training is for staff in California local health departments with administrative or clinical duties, and that it covers how to seek reimbursement for patients with public or private coverage. A sub-heading says "The process is as easy as 1, 2, 3!". Below this are three orange rounded rectangular buttons: "View Introduction to Billables Video", "Register & select your role(s)", and "View lessons from your curriculum". To the right of these buttons is a grey box with a "START HERE" button and a paragraph of text explaining that clicking "start here" leads to an introductory video that covers seven clinic billing roles and provides instructions on how to select a role and register for a customized curriculum.

The training covers basic information on Medi-Cal, Medicare, and private insurance basics and billing. It also allows each clinic staff person to select a role or roles that most closely matches their responsibilities related to billing. This might include verifying a patient’s insurance, notating the correct procedure and time codes during a clinic visit, setting up contracts and MOUs, collecting fees, explaining insurance jargon, completing health plan paperwork, submitting invoices, managing denials, and more!

Because clinic staff all have different roles to play, the training begins with a quick tutorial providing an overview of the training goals and describes seven unique billing roles. Then, at registration, each user can choose the role(s) that best fit with current responsibilities. Choosing a role (or combination of roles) determines a customized curriculum of online lessons. Lessons, typically about 2-10 minutes each, can be taken at one’s convenience. More details on the California Billables training will be sent to California local health departments, when available.

Branch Staff Updates

Thyrone Antonio is the Immunization Branch’s newest VFC Field Services Representative for the Bay Area. Thyrone previously served at the Vaccines for Children program home office as a Project Analyst.

Events, Conferences, and Observances

Date	Event	Partners/ Sponsors
April 15-16 (Berkeley, CA)	California Immunization Coordinator's Conference	CDPH Immunization Branch
April 18-25	National Infant Immunization Week	CDC
April 21-23 (New Orleans, LA)	AIRA's 2015 IIS National Meeting	American Immunization Registry Association
April 26-27 (Riverside, CA)	California Immunization Coalition Summit	California Immunization Coalition
May	Toddler Immunization Month	CDPH Immunization Branch
May 2-6 (San Francisco, CA)	American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Annual Meeting	ACOG
May 4-6 (Sacramento, CA)	Provider's Best Practices and GIPRA Conference	California Indian Health Services

New Online Resources

New Materials/Online Resources	Type of resource
Childhood Vaccination	
2015 Childhood Immunization Schedule (CDC)	Guide
Global Child Health: Vaccine Safety (American Academy of Pediatrics)	Factsheet
Adult Vaccination	Flyer
Your Baby May be at Risk (CDPH)	Flyer
Expecting? Protect Yourself & Your Baby Against Flu and Whooping cough (CDPH)	Flyer
If You're 65+ You Need 2 Pneumonia Shots (now in Spanish & Chinese) (CDPH)	Flyer
Pneumococcal Vaccine Timing flow chart adults (CDPH)	Flow Chart
2015 Adult Immunization Schedule (CDC)	Chart
Protect Yourself from Pneumococcal Disease (Immunization Action Coalition)	Fact Sheet
HPV Vaccine Resources	
HPV: A Guide for Young Adults (Immunization Action Coalition)	Flyer
5 Key Steps to Improve HPV Vaccination Rates (Nat'l Foundation for Infectious Disease)	Infographic
HPV Vaccine: Access and Use in the US. (H. J. Kaiser Foundation)	Policy Brief
www.gethpvaccine.com	Website
Other	
On the Spot: Measles Poster (CDPH)	Poster
Measles Symptoms poster (updated) (CDPH)	Poster
Vaccines for Teens and Preteens (now in Spanish) (CDPH)	Flyer
www.vaccinefactsandpolicy.org/	Website
www.adolescentvaccination.org	Website
Meningococcal Disease updated (CDC)	Website
Webinars/Online Training	Archived webinars
The Power to Prevent Cancer: Important Updates on the HPV Vaccine (ACOG)	
Measles Update: A Primer for Health Care Providers (Los Angeles County Health Dept)	
A New Campaign to Protect Babies from Whooping Cough: Resources for National Infant Immunization Week and Beyond (VIC Network)	