



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

July 2015

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Governor Signs SB277 into Law

On June 30, Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 277 (Pan). Effective one year from now, in July 2016, SB 277 will eliminate personal and religious exemptions from immunization requirements for children in child care and public and private schools. The law will also allow personal belief exemptions (PBEs) submitted before January 1, 2016 to remain valid until a pupil reaches Kindergarten or 7th grade. The following exempt categories will not have to meet existing immunization requirements for entry:

- Home-based private schools
- Students enrolled in an independent study program who do not receive classroom-based instruction
- Special education services specified in an individualized education program.

Note: *Students in the above categories will still need to provide immunization records to their schools before entry, and schools will still need to report to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) the immunization status of all students at the existing checkpoints of child care, kindergarten, and 7th grade.*

In addition, the law allows medical and personal beliefs exemptions from any new immunization requirement initiated by CDPH for school and child care attendance. For more details, read the [text of SB 277](#) and the [Governor's signing message](#). Further information about the implementation of SB 277 will become available by 2016.



ACIP Updates

Permissive Recommendation for Meningococcal B Vaccines at Ages 16-23 Years

At their June 24 meeting, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted that serogroup B meningococcal (MenB) vaccines “may be administered to adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years to provide short-term protection against most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease. The preferred age for MenB vaccination is 16 - 18 years.” The wording designates the recommendation as “Category B (permissive)” rather than routine. Health care providers and patients will decide on an individual basis whether to use the vaccine.

Category B recommendations are covered with no cost-sharing by the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) and most private health plans. VFC participants ages 16 - 18 will be eligible for the MenB vaccines. California VFC providers can expect further guidance on vaccine availability and ordering from the VFC program after the recommendations have been published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR); ACIP recommendations are official once published in the MMWR.

Two MenB vaccines are available in the US. Bexsero® is given in a two-dose series and Trumenba® is given in three doses. The ACIP recommended the same product for all doses of the series, with no preference of one product over the other. Both are approved for ages 10-25 years but may be given to high-risk persons older than 25 years. The ACIP voted in February to recommend MenB vaccines in people older than 10 years who have a specific increased risk for meningococcal group B disease. [Read MMWR June 12, 2015.](#) [VFC will cover MenB vaccines](#) for ages 10-18 for those meeting high-risk criteria. In addition, MenB vaccines will be covered by private insurers based on Affordable Care Act guidelines.



ACIP – One Year or More Between PCV13 and PPSV23 for Adults Age 65+

ACIP also extended the recommended interval for adults 65 years and older receiving the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13, Prevnar 13®) and the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23, Pneumovax 23®) to one year, regardless of sequence. The previously recommended interval had been 6-12 months. One dose of PCV13 and one dose of PPSV23 are covered by Medicare Part B if separated by at least one year.

Statewide Immunization Campaigns

IZ Branch Sponsors Radio Spots Targeting Pregnant Women

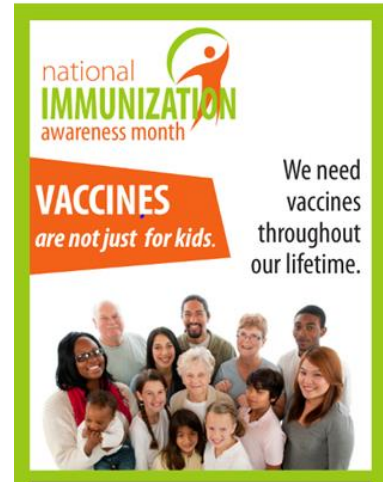


During June, the Immunization Branch sponsored radio spots in English and Spanish promoting maternal Tdap vaccination and the Text4Baby program. Pregnant women who sign up for Text4Baby receive reminders in their third trimester encouraging them to talk to their doctor about Tdap vaccine. Given the higher risk of severe pertussis in Latino infants, the spots were broadcast in areas with the greatest number of pertussis cases or large Latino populations, including San Diego, Los Angeles, Bakersfield, Fresno, Modesto, Riverside-San Bernardino, Stockton, and Visalia-Tulare.

Get Ready for NIAM!

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), an opportunity to highlight the importance of immunization across the lifespan. In 2015, the National Public Health Information Coalition ([NPHIC](#)) is once again coordinating NIAM activities to support local, state, and national efforts.

The *NIAM Communication Toolkit*, developed by NPHIC and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will debut Thursday, July 16 on the VicNetwork webinar "[Social Media Strategies for Public Health Messages, Featuring Tools and Resources for Promoting National Immunization Awareness Month!](#)" Use this event link to register now!



This year's NIAM focuses on four weekly themes:

Week 1 **Preteens and teens: Ensure a healthy future with vaccines.**

Week 2 **Pregnant women: Protect yourself and pass protection on to your baby.**

Week 3 **Adults: Vaccines are not just for kids.**

Week 4 **Infants and young children: A healthy start begins with on-time vaccination.**

Plus: School-age children: Time for school? Check those vaccine records.

The toolkit, to be found at [nphic.org](#), includes key messages, sample media materials, social media content, and event ideas. Download eye-catching NIAM logos and banners for each weekly theme to post on your websites and social media platforms. There is also an opportunity to share local events with other advocates. There's no need to stop after August. Consider using the toolkit to promote immunizations year-round! For more information, contact info@nphic.org.

Wrap-Up: NIIW/TIM 2015

California celebrated National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) 2015 on April 18-25 and Toddler Immunization Month (TIM) in May. This year, 23 counties participated in events highlighting the importance of early childhood immunization.



Immunization Coordinators and their partners used both traditional and social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, to raise awareness. Highlights of 2015 activities include exhibiting at county health fairs, conducting interviews with local TV stations, conducting community presentations, and distributing educational materials. The Immunization Branch extends its thanks to local health jurisdictions and their partners for making NIIW/TIM 2015 a success!

New Infant Pertussis Story on Shot by Shot

In May, Baby Kinsley's story had well over 7,000 views on the California Immunization Coalition's ShotbyShot.org's Facebook page. Her plight conveys the true impact of pertussis disease – not just the number of cases, but about the hours of worry and waiting at the hospital, watching one tiny baby gasp for air. Read and share [Kinsley's Story](#).





California Pertussis Update

As of July 7, 3,150 pertussis cases with onset in 2015 had been reported to CDPH from 53 of California's 61 local health jurisdictions. Of these, 115 cases were hospitalized and 30 (26%) of those required intensive care. Eighty (70%) of hospitalized patients were infants <4 months of age. One death was reported earlier this year in an infant <3 weeks of age.

The Immunization Branch's educational materials, including our [patient flyer on Tdap and influenza vaccines for pregnant women](#), are also available in [Spanish](#) and [Chinese](#). The [poster](#) (shown here) promoting Tdap and influenza vaccines for pregnant women is ideal for posting in waiting and exam rooms. If you didn't get a chance to attend the

Immunization Branch's 2014 webinar, it's not too late! The free 1-hour archived webcast: [Increasing Tdap Immunization Rates and Running an Efficient Immunization Practice: Tips from OBs](#) offers 1 unit of continuing education (available for California nurses and physicians) until August 2015. Visit [EZIZ.org's pertussis page](#) for more pertussis resources.

Vaccine News

► Reported Deaths in VAERS 1997-2013 Similar to Those in the US

No concerning patterns were noted among 2,100 deaths reported to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). The main causes of death were similar to those in the US population. [Read more.](#)

► Measles Increases Overall Childhood Infectious Disease Mortality

By protecting children against measles, measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine can also prevent life-threatening damage to the immune system. [Read more.](#)

► Receipt of MMR Not Associated with Autism

In a study of over 95,000 children, receipt of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) was not associated with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), even among children who had a higher risk of ASDs. [Read more.](#)

► HPV Vaccination in 8th and 9th Grades Decreases Cervical Dysplasia

In 260,000 Canadian girls vaccinated with HPV4, cervical dysplasia in high school decreased by 44% compared to the time before routine HPV4 vaccination had been established. [Read more.](#)

► First Pertussis Vaccine Dose and Prevention of Infant Mortality

All pertussis deaths were in infants younger than 34 weeks; 64% occurred before age 6 weeks. Infants who received a first dose of DTaP at age 6 weeks were protected against death. [Read more.](#)

School Immunization News

Non-Reporting and High 'Conditional' Public Schools to be Audited in 2015-16



Recent reviews of school assessment data reported to CDPH show that not all schools are reporting, and some have higher than average conditional admission rates. These schools may be more vulnerable to disease exposure and outbreaks.

In order to promote compliance with immunization requirements, beginning in 2015-16, public schools (7th grade and Kindergarten) that do not submit immunization assessment reports or Kindergartens that have conditional admission rates above 25% (i.e., have students not currently due for immunizations but have doses due later) for the 2015-16 school year will have their immunization documentation audited as part of their annual financial and compliance audit by the State Controller's Office.

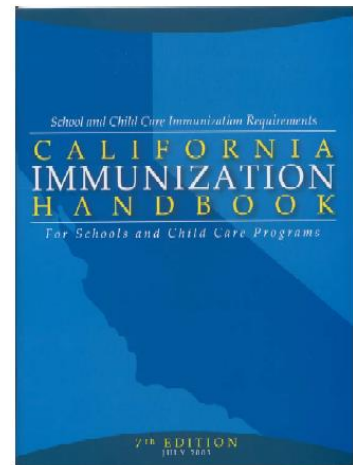
To avoid the potential auditing or audit finding, schools are reminded that Kindergarten assessment reports are due at ShotsforSchool.org by October 15, and Grade 7 immunization reports are due by November 1. Plan ahead to ensure that all conditionally admitted students are accurately reported and that proper follow-up procedures are in place.

New Online Blue Book Coming!

The California Immunization Handbook, commonly referred to as the "Blue Book," is being updated! The 8th Edition of the Blue Book will be released on ShotsforSchool.org by this fall.

Along with the new edition, CDPH is developing a PowerPoint presentation that local health jurisdictions can use to train school staff on immunization requirements before fall registration. The training will help local health jurisdictions and schools understand:

- school and child care immunization requirements
- compliance, including personal belief exemptions and conditional entrants
- assessments, reporting, and more!



Also available later this summer, the *Guide to the Requirements of the California School Immunization Law for Parents* (IMM-222) is being updated and will include two versions: child care and school.

GreatSchools.org to Collaborate with IZ Branch



GreatSchools.org is a leading national source of school information – you may have seen it integrated with real estate sites like Zillow, Trulia, and Realtor.com. To help parents with their school choice decisions, starting in early 2016, GreatSchools.org will begin including immunization rate information in school profiles. With approximately seven million unique visitors to the site from California each year, the partnership will allow more families to see important immunization rate data as they research schools!

CAIR Upgrades Performance

High numbers of electronic transmissions coming into the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) slowed performance for the Bay Area and Los Angeles/Orange County regions. To address the delay, CAIR revised its import algorithms and weekend and evening schedules. All CAIR regions are now adding electronic records within 24 hours of receipt.

The CAIR tech team also moved the Bay Area registry onto new equipment, allowing live data to be synchronized on a new server. This process will be repeated with the Los Angeles/Orange County registry this summer. The remainder of the CAIR regions are smaller and can be easily transitioned, as needed. The CAIR team thanks Catharine Ratto and her staff in Alameda County for testing to ensure data transitioned to the new servers.



Provider Education

Communication with Vaccine-Hesitant Parents

In a recent poll of parents, 28% had concerns about vaccinations, primarily side effects (36%) and fear that vaccines would cause illness (27%). About 91% indicated that all children attending *public* schools should be required to get recommended vaccinations. However, that fell to 83% support for requiring school vaccinations for *any* school, including private schools. [Read more.](#)

A recent [study](#) of a physician communication strategy failed to reduce parental vaccine hesitancy. A related [commentary](#) suggests:

- using a “presumptive” approach to vaccination,
- building a trusting and satisfying relationship with the parent, and
- allowing ample time for questions.



Getting Ready for HPV9

Human papillomavirus nine-valent vaccine (HPV9, trade name Gardasil® 9) is available now through the online ordering system MyVFCVaccines. VFC providers were notified in June about ordering vaccines. Phone the VFC central office for further questions.



- Per [federal recommendations](#) and policy, HPV9 may be used to immunize both females and males 9 years or older, even when beyond their FDA-licensed ages and indications (“off-label”).
- Any human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine product (HPV2, HPV4, or HPV9) may be used for females when providers do not know which vaccine was previously received, do not have all formulations available, or are transitioning to HPV9 and have remaining inventory. For males, HPV9 may be used to complete the series if HPV4 was administered for preceding doses.

Patients More likely to Get HPV Vaccinations After EHR Prompts

Clinics that used an electronic health record (EHR) to flag patient due dates for human papillomavirus (HPV) initiation, and doses two and three were *six times* more likely to have adolescents and young adults start the HPV series and *eight times* more likely to complete it than a non-intervention comparison group. [Read more.](#)

Reporting Vaccine Errors: Two Publications



A recent report, [Recommendations to Practitioners to Prevent Vaccine Errors, Part 2: Analysis of ISMP VERP](#) establishes nine top mistakes filed in the Vaccine Error Reporting Program (VERP) and provides detailed recommendations to avoid common vaccine errors. Providers may report any vaccine administration error and associated contributing factors to VERP at <http://verp.ismp.org/>.

A related study from the the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) was published in the journal [Vaccine](#). Of 2,100 vaccine errors reported, the most common error was “inappropriate schedule.” The vast majority (92%) were “non-serious.” The authors conclude that prevention strategies are needed.

Branch Staff Updates

Kristen Sy is our new Population Assessments Coordinator working on school immunization assessments. Before coming to Richmond, she worked with the Branch’s San Diego Field Office. Kristen earned her MPH from San Diego State University.

Cindy Huynh is a new CAIR Help Desk Operator. Cindy recently received a BS degree from UC Riverside, a Pharmacy Technician certificate, and has completed a Post-Baccalaureate program at UC San Francisco.

Wilfred Velsaco is a new VFC Customer Service Representative based in Richmond. Wilfred graduated from San Francisco State University with a BS in Political Science.

Vanessa Leos is also a new VFC Customer Service Representative at our home office. Vanessa was previously employed at St. Marks Church House of Hope as a Client Services Coordinator.

Elisa Nucum-Snell is an Associate Governmental Program Analyst. Prior to this position, Elisa worked as a Customer Service Representative in the VFC program. She has a BS in Human Resources from Oakland University.

What will
YOU do
for NIAM?



Events, Conferences, and Observances

Date	Event	Partners/ Sponsors
July 8 – October 14 (Wednesdays. Check link for schedule of topics)	The Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases Webinar Series	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
July 16, 11am (PT) live webinar (archived after live event)	Social Media Strategies for Public Health Messages, Featuring Tools and Resources for Promoting National Immunization Awareness Month!	VicNetwork
July 29, 11am, (PT) live webinar (archived 60 days after live event)	Immunization Updates and Best Practices National and State Perspectives	California Pharmacists Association (AphA)
August	National Immunization Awareness Month	National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC)
August 11-13 Atlanta GA	2015 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media	NPHIC
October 31-November 4 Chicago, IL	American Public Health Association Annual Meeting	American Public Health Association (APHA)

New Online Resources

New Materials/Online Resources	Type of Resource
Vaccine Safety	
Vaccine Safety: Answers to Parents' Top Questions IMM-916 (CDPH) updated!	Fact Sheet
Talking About Vaccines with Dr. Offit (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)	Collection of Videos
Adult Vaccination	
Smoke, Diabetes, Asthma or Weakened Immune System? Get a Pneumonia Shot (IMM-1155) also in Spanish (CDPH)	Flyer
Vaccinations for Pregnant Women (Immunization Action Coalition)	Fact Sheet
www.Momvax.org (Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health)	Website
HPV and Adolescent Vaccination	
Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic (Lumiere Media and Indiana IZ Coalition)	Documentary film (CME available)
Adolescent immunization materials (Alliance for Immunization, Michigan)	Suite of Materials
Oral Cancer Foundation HPV Connection page	Webpage
HPV Vaccine: What Medical Assistants Need to Know (Medical Assistants Resources and Training on Immunization)	e-Newsletter
Standing Orders to Administer HPV Vaccine to Children and Teens (IAC)	Fact Sheet
Standing Orders to Administer HPV Vaccine to Adults (IAC)	Fact Sheet
Webinars/Online Training	Archived Webinars and PPTs
Adult Immunization and ACIP Updates (Nat'l Foundation for Infectious Diseases)	Webinar
Applying Health Literacy, Plain Language, and Cultural Competency to Immunization Promotion (California Immunization Coalition)	PPT Slides
HPV Vaccine Update & Administration Errors Reported to VAERS Webinar (CDC)	Webinar
#PreteenVaxScene Webinar #1: HPV Vaccine Recommendation Update	Webinar
#PreteenVaxScene Webinar #2: CDC's Clinician Engagement Initiative	Webinar
California Immunization Coalition Summit 2015	PPT Slides
American Immunization Registry Association Annual Meeting 2015	PPT Slides
National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit	PPT Slides