



The 2020 immunization gap continues! More catch-up is needed to protect children and communities

Data from the California Immunization Registry show that the deferral of routine immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic is leaving hundreds of thousands of children of all ages vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. As compared with 2019, in 2020:

- 12% fewer children under 3 years have received their first dose of MMR
- 22% fewer children ages 4-6 have received their second dose of MMR
- 25% fewer children ages 11-13 have received their Tdap booster

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, medical providers across California are working diligently to close this worrisome [gap](#). However, if catch-up continues at the current gradual pace, many children will remain unprotected into 2021 and beyond. Your efforts are essential for protecting children and communities from outbreaks, both now and once the pandemic is over.

As patients come to your clinic this fall and winter for flu vaccine, assess them and administer their routine immunizations! All vaccines due or overdue should be administered according to the recommended [CDC immunization schedules](#). The [CDC catch-up schedule](#) can be helpful for children who are behind.

Consider the following resources as you immunize your patients:

- California's [#Dontwaitvaccinate](#) campaign has resources you can use for patient communications, social media posts, and other outreach efforts. The campaign includes flu season messaging for high-risk groups, as well as messages tailored for various pediatric age groups.
- Protecting vulnerable populations and reducing burdens from influenza during the pandemic will be especially important. Extensive [influenza vaccination promotional materials](#) are available now for download.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released [Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), which emphasizes that routine vaccination should not be delayed, and discusses strategies for safe vaccination. [CDC's Guidance for Planning Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-site Locations](#) may also be helpful for providers who are considering alternate vaccination strategies such as drive-through or curbside immunization.

Thank you for your continued efforts to catch up your patients on routine immunizations during the pandemic

To subscribe: <http://eziz.org/manage-subscription.php>

.