Vaccines Are Essential: Guidance for Immunizations During the Pandemic

California Department of Public Health Immunization Branch
Webinar Tech Tips!

1. Listen to today’s webinar through the computer audio

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Getting Your Question(s) and Answer(s) Submitted

Write down your questions in the Chat box as we move through the presentation.
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Cecilia.LaVu@cdph.ca.gov
Today's webinar will discuss:

• Patient prioritization for immunizing during the pandemic
• Infection control measures
• Messaging to encourage patients to schedule well-child visits and immunizations
• Operational changes to protect staff and patients
• Alternate strategies to provide immunizations, including curbside clinics
Today’s speakers

CDPH Speakers:
Robert Schechter, MD
Claudia Aguiluz
Steven Vantine

Guest Speakers:
Elizabeth Salsburg, MD, FAAP
Robert J. Riewerts, MD, FAAP
Itzel Duran Verdin

Host:
Edgar Ednacot, EdD, MPH
Decreased Routine Vaccination: Risk to Community Immunity
While staying at home during the COVID-19 outbreak has helped to slow the spread of the virus, it also has resulted in delays and decreases in the number of children getting their recommended vaccines.
Recent data from the California Immunization Registry (CAIR*) show troubling decreases in ordering and administering of childhood vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting that many children may be vulnerable to serious disease.
Children (0-18 years) April/May 2020 vs. 2019

Over 40% Drop in vaccination

2019 April + May 1.7 Million doses
2020 April + May 1.0 Million doses
MMR Doses for Children Age 4-6 Years
Recorded in CAIR by Week, 2019 – 2020 to date
Relaxation of restrictions = increased exposure to many infections

Challenges to maintain community (herd) immunity

• Regain usual levels of immunization

• Catch-up children whose immunizations have been delayed

• Each future wave of COVID-19 and associated restrictions might add to the number of children with delayed immunizations
Measles Cases and Immunization Rates, England and Wales, 1996-2012

- Measles cases
- MMR1 rate in 2 year olds
Current Immunization Guidelines During the Pandemic
# Updated CDC Guidelines

Visit [this link](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html) for the latest guidance.

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## Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Purpose of Guidance
- Importance of Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Vaccine Recommendations During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Considerations for Routine Vaccination
- Additional Considerations for Influenza Vaccination
- Vaccination of Persons with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19
- Vaccine Administration During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- General Practices for the Safe Delivery of Vaccination Services
- Additional Considerations for Alternative Vaccination Sites
- Strategies for Catch-up Vaccination
- Additional Resources

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## Vaccination Recommendations during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- General Information on Childhood Immunizations
- Measles & Rubella Initiative Statement
- Interim Guidance to Prevent Mother-to-Child Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus
Guidance from AAP, CDC...

Identify children (newborns through adolescents) who have missed well visits or vaccinations

Contact them to schedule in-person appointments.


Credit: Heather Hazzan, SELF Magazine
# ACIP Catch-up Immunization Schedule

## Table 2: Recommended Catch-up Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Who Start Late or Who are More than 1 month Behind, United States, 2020

The table below provides catch-up schedules and minimum intervals between doses for children whose vaccinations have been delayed. A vaccine series does not need to be restarted, regardless of the time that has elapsed between doses. Use the section appropriate for the child’s age. **Always use this table in conjunction with Table 1 and the notes that follow.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Minimum Age for Dose 1</th>
<th>Dose 1 to Dose 2</th>
<th>Dose 2 to Dose 3</th>
<th>Minimum Interval Between Doses</th>
<th>Dose 3 to Dose 4</th>
<th>Dose 4 to Dose 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>8 weeks and at least 16 weeks after first dose. Minimum age for the final dose is 24 weeks.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotavirus</td>
<td>6 weeks, maximum age for first dose is 14 weeks, 6 days</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 weeks Maximum age for final dose is 8 months, 0 days.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Haemophilus influenza</em> type b</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>No further doses needed if first dose was administered at age 15 months or older. 4 weeks if first dose was administered before the 1st birthday. 8 weeks (as final dose) if first dose was administered at age 12 through 14 months.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumococcal conjugate</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>No further doses needed for healthy children if first dose was administered at age 24 months or older. 4 weeks if first dose was administered before the 1st birthday. 8 weeks (as final dose for healthy children) if first dose was administered at the 1st birthday or after.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inactivated poliovirus</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles, mumps, rubella</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6 months (minimum age 4 years for final dose).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Back-to-School Requirements

• As of 6/30/20, requirements for school and childcare entry for the 2020-2021 school year have not changed.

• Please recall children due for immunizations required at
  • childcare/pre-K
  • kindergarten entry
  • Advancement to 7th grade.
  • Transfer students at any grade from K-12.

• Please check shotsforschool.org for any updates.
Pregnant women

• Should be scheduled for follow-up and receive delayed or due doses of Tdap and influenza vaccine during the next in-person appointment.

Adults too: Don't wait, vaccinate!

- Ensure that adults receive vaccines according to the Standards for Adult Immunization Practice.
- Older adults and those with underlying medical conditions are at increased risks for severe influenza, pneumococcal disease, shingles (and COVID-19!)

Credit: Heather Hazzan, SELF Magazine

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/schedule-changes.html
Influenza Immunization Critical This Fall!

• Reduce illness and transmission in your community
• Reduce clinic visits and hospitalization
• Prevent illnesses that mimic COVID-19
# Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

## Purpose of Guidance

## Importance of Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

## Vaccine Recommendations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

## Considerations for Routine Vaccination

## Additional Considerations for Influenza Vaccination

## Vaccination of Persons with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

## Vaccine Administration During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- **General Practices for the Safe Delivery of Vaccination Services**

## Additional Considerations for Alternative Vaccination Sites

## Strategies for Catch-up Vaccination

## Additional Resources

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# Vaccination Recommendations during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- **General Information on Childhood Immunizations**
- **Measles & Rubella Initiative Statement**
- **Interim Guidance to Prevent Mother-to-Child Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus**

Ensure that all staff follow infection prevention and control procedures:

• Follow **Standard Precautions**, which includes guidance for hand hygiene and cleaning the environment between patients.

• Wear a medical facemask at all times.

• Use **eye protection** based on **level of community transmission**:
  • Moderate to substantial: Wear eye protection given the increased likelihood of encountering asymptomatic COVID-19 patients.
  • Minimal to none: optional, unless otherwise indicated as a part of **Standard Precautions**.
Gloves?

• Intramuscular or subcutaneous vaccines:
  • If gloves are worn during vaccine administration, they should be changed between patients in addition to performing hand hygiene.

• Intranasal or oral vaccines:
  • ...Wear gloves when administering because of the increased likelihood of coming into contact with a patient’s mucous membranes and body fluids. Gloves should be changed between patients in addition to performing hand hygiene.
  • Administration is not considered an aerosol-generating procedure and thus, use of an N95 or higher-level respirator is not recommended.
Ensure physical distancing by strategies, such as:

• Separating sick from well patients by
  • Time (e.g., well visits in AM, sick visits in PM)
  • Space (e.g., separate zones or facilities for well vs sick visits.)

• Reduce crowding by asking patients to remain outside (e.g., stay in their vehicles) until they are called into the facility.

• Maintain physical distancing during all aspects of the visit, using strategies such as barriers, signs, ropes, markings, etc.

• Utilize electronic communications as much as possible to minimize time in the office as well as reuse of materials
Reassure them that their safety is your top priority

Share the new precautionary measures you have taken:

"We're taking many precautions to help keep our patients safe, including scheduling well visit in the morning and only seeing sick children in the afternoon."

Empathize and acknowledge concerns:

"We understand you may feel a little uneasy about coming into the doctor’s office these days. Give us a call and we can go over all the things we do to keep you safe and talk about any concerns you might have."

WE'RE MAKING CHECKUPS SAFE FOR YOU:
- requiring masks
- screening and separating patients
- disinfecting rooms

Don't Wait--Vaccinate!
Consider alternative ways to provide care

“We can schedule a tele-health appointment, where we talk about any concerns, followed by a brief immunization visit to help keep your child safe and minimize your time at the clinic.”

“Our clinic is offering ‘drive-thru’ immunizations, so you don’t even have to come inside the clinic!”
Reinforce the fact that vaccine-preventable diseases will continue to be a threat to the child

“As a parent, I would not wait to immunize my baby; as your doctor, I am strongly recommending we help protect your child from diseases that could cause harm during or after the pandemic.”
Inform them that getting caught up is important for school.

“As California ‘reopens,’ more families will bring their children back in for shots, especially if they need them for daycare or school. It's likely that our schedule will fill up quickly. Let's schedule a visit now to make sure your son/daughter is ready for school.”

Don’t wait—Vaccinate!
Resources on EZIZ

Available for download at: https://eziz.org/resources/flu-promo-materials/
Some of these materials are available for FREE from your local health department.
Other CDPH Resources

COVID-19 Updates: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx
Dear parents:
We'll take ‘em off your hands for 20 minutes.
Love,
Your pediatrician
#CallYourPediatrician
#DontWaitVaccinate Campaign Toolkit

✓ Infographic
✓ Talking points
✓ Social media messages/images
✓ Scripts for clinic robocalls
✓ Provider template letter to families
✓ Tips for amplifying social media reach and more!

#Dontwaitvaccinate Campaign Webpage (coming soon)
Modifying Immunization Services During the Pandemic
Kiwi Pediatrics

Elizabeth Salsburg, MD, FAAP
Southern California Permanente Medical Group

Robert J. Riewerts, MD, FAAP
Itzel Duran Verdin
Routine Immunizations during Covid-19
Kaiser Permanente

Presenters:
Robert Riewerts, MD
Regional Chief of Pediatrics
Itzel Duran
VFC Project Manager
Kaiser Permanente Recommendations for Routine Immunizations During Covid-19

General Recommendations:

• Make modifications as needed to patient flow systems and infection control precautions in order to comply with the CDPH Resuming California’s Deferred and Preventive Health Care guidance.

• Practice universal source control including requiring the use of face coverings for all patients and essential visitors (face covering should not be used in children under the age of 2, those who are unable to remove it without assistance, and persons having trouble breathing).

Infants, Children and Adolescents

• Address patient and/or family concerns about COVID-19 infection risk. Proactively communicate information and provide reassurance about steps your practice is taking to keep patients and clinic staff safe.

• Remind parents that vaccine-preventable diseases remain a threat to their child and to their community. It is important to protect their child against serious diseases which have not gone away during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Routine Immunizations During Covid-19 Continued

**Infants, Children and Adolescents**

- **Consider non-traditional or innovative approaches to providing immunizations. Examples of strategies include drive up vaccine clinics, texting families when an appointment is ready to minimize waiting room time, and using hybrid telehealth/in-person models for immunization visits to reduce the length of face-to-face time required, such that telehealth appointments are followed by a brief immunization visit.**

- Prioritize newborn care and vaccination of infants and children up to 24 months of age, if your practice is not yet able to provide well-child visits and immunizations for all patients.

- Use catch-up immunizations schedules where indicated and follow the CDC recommendations that children with mild illnesses receive vaccines on schedule.
How is Kaiser Permanente addressing safety concerns during Covid-19

• On-going emails are sent out to patients/parents containing updated information on Covid-19 information which includes how to get care, local facilities updates, self care appointments, etc.

• Appointment and immunization outreach calls, now include Covid-19 screening and safety precaution information.
  - During the call the patient/parent is informed the many ways our facilities are addressing Covid-19 transmission concerns prior to their clinic visit.

• Within our KP.org site, Kaiser Permanente has developed and shared a KP wide message that outlines changes in our maternity care design to minimize the spread of Covid-19.
  - The content shared with our KP patients/parents includes verbiage intended to encourage pregnant mothers to bring in their child for care and receive immunizations.

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**Should I bring my baby in for their well-child visits during the COVID-19 crisis?**

Yes, in most cases, you should bring your baby in for scheduled well-child visits. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that you continue well-child visits and immunizations for your baby. These infant preventive visits generally take place in the following order after delivery: 2 to 3 days, 2 weeks, 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months.

To help keep you and your child safe, we have dedicated areas for pediatric care to limit your exposure to the virus. Before your appointment, you’ll be screened over the phone for COVID-19 symptoms. If you and your child aren’t showing any symptoms, you’ll most likely be scheduled for an in-person visit. However, if any symptoms develop between the time you set up the appointment and the visit, you must reschedule.

Also, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, only one parent or caregiver may come with the child to the visit.
Pediatric Immunization Trends
Pre/Post “Safer at Home” Orders
Kaiser Permanente Childhood Immunization Covid-19 Trends

Percent of Children 19 months old with Combo 3 vaccines completed, Month-to-Month, 2020

Percent of Children 19 months old with Combo 3 vaccines completed, Month-to-Month, 2020
Kaiser Permanente Childhood Immunization Covid-19 Trends

Percent of Children 13 months old with MMR vaccine completed, Month-to-Month, 2020

Percent of Children 19 months old with DTAP vaccine completed, Month-to-Month, 2020
Innovative Approaches: Drive Through/Up Immunizations Clinics
Drive Through/Up Immunization Clinics

Riverside Ped Drive-Up
- Vicki Mestas LVN
- Nanette Robinson LVN
- Ann Varges LVN
Innovative approach to deliver immunizations: Drive Through/Up Clinics

Drive Through/Up immunization clinics have been set up throughout SCAL Kaiser Permanente facilities. Currently, there is a total of 19 drive through clinics in the following service areas:

- Antelope Valley, Baldwin Park, Downey, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino County, South Bay and Woodland Hills.

Drive Through Clinic Goals

- Address patient/parent Covid-19 safety concerns
- Provide critical routine vaccination to patients 2+
- Create meaningful work for our KP staff
Drive Through/Up Immunization Outreach

Outreach Prior to Appointment

• Obtain list of eligible patients based on the service area criteria

• Call the parent/guardian to book an appointment
  • Screen parent/guardian & child for Covid-19 symptoms
  • Provide safety instructions for day of appointment
  • Provide location details
  • Use this opportunity to schedule a telephone or video appointment if needed

• Complete a courtesy appointment reminder the day before appointment
  • Once again complete Covid-19 screening criteria
Drive Through/Up Clinic Locations

- Clinics are setup to be conveniently close to our pediatric clinics, restrooms and building entrances.
- Signage is used to guide traffic to correct location and allotted parking spaces.
- Tents, tables and chairs are set up as working stations for the nurses, service representatives and other KP employees.
Day of Drive Through Appointment

Patient Arrival
- Approach patient car and greet individuals
- Perform temperature screening and Covid-19 screening
- Ask for patient’s KP membership card and/or verify patient identity
- Check in patient for appointment
  - Follow VFC workflow for non-members that present to drive up clinic.
  - No scheduled appointment: accommodate patients that fit the service area’s drive through criteria and refer the rest of the patients to vaccine/nurse clinic.
- Give instructions for visit
  - Refer younger patients and parents to tent for vaccinations.
  - Vaccinate older patients in vehicle and have nurse approach parked vehicle.

During Visit
- Verify patient identity
- Review and address care gaps
- Height and Weight – for those who meet criteria
- Review Immunization Tab and validate vaccinations due
  - Provide Vaccine Information Statements to parent/guardian
- Print immunization record and/or direct patient to KP.org for updated immunization schedules

End of Visit
- Ensure documentation is complete
- Provide parent/guardian with Immunization Record and After Visit Summary
Learnings/Best Practices

• Portable refrigerators and or stationed refrigerators maintain temperatures longer than coolers.

• Have available staff assigned as “runners” to go and get frozen vaccines for those areas that do not have a freezer.

• If other children are present in the car, ask if they need to be checked for vaccines due.

• Involve all departments required to have appropriate power connections, COVID-19 PPE for patients and nurses and other necessary supplies.

• Have a workflow developed for patients/parents who present themselves with Covid-19 symptoms.
Drive Through Clinic Successes:

Patient Counts

• Fontana medical center drive through clinic has seen 700+ patients since opening on the week of April 20th

• Baldwin Park medical center drive through clinic has seen 400+ patients since opening on the week of May 18th

• Riverside medical center area drive throughs have seen 1400+ patients since opening on the week of May 5th

Recognitions

• National Labor Management Partnership recognition.
Thank you!
Modified Clinic Operations and VFC

Vaccines for Children
Protecting America’s children every day

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program helps ensure that all children have a better chance of getting their recommended vaccines. VFC has helped prevent disease and save lives.

CDC estimates that vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2018 will:

- prevent 419 million illnesses (218 million hospitalizations)
- help avoid 936,000 deaths
- save nearly $1.9 trillion in total societal costs (that includes $40 billion in direct costs)

Modified Clinic Operations and VFC

• There are necessary changes to clinic flow, operations, and even locations in order to keep immunization services during this pandemic.

• For sites participating in the California VFC Program, holding drive up immunization efforts are an acceptable alternative for continued provision of immunization services.

• Make sure key VFC Program operation areas are incorporated within restructured clinic flow and new set-ups.
Modified Clinic Operation: Key Areas

• VFC Eligibility
  • Eligibility Screening- Important, and more families may be eligible to receive VFC supplied vaccines

• VFC Program Information
  • Documentation-Make sure this is incorporated into curbside immunization services

• Vaccine Information Statements
  • Can be shared electronically-via Advance appointment communication or at the visit

• Need more doses before your next order is due?
  • Contact the VFC Program
Storage and handling of vaccine supply

- Curbside clinic considerations:
  - Temporary storage unit must meet VFC requirements
  - If stored at curbside clinic, use VFC's Hourly Temperature Log
  - Label or separate inventory
  - Prefilling is discouraged
  - Track inventory and doses administered at the conclusion of each event

https://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1255.pdf
Storage and handling of vaccine supply

• Follow VFC Program guidance regarding vaccine storage and handling
• Keep clinic hours up to date on your MYVFCVaccine.org account
• Cross-train staff, especially in limited staffing situations
• Ensure ALL practice’s digital data loggers have a valid and current Certificate of Calibration.
• If practice closure continues for the next several weeks, please contact your local VFC Rep for recommendations on what to do with your vaccine.
Type: "off-site-vaccination-clinic-checklist.pdf"
Questions and Answers
Thank You for Protecting Californians!

IT’S TIME!

Don’t Wait—Vaccinate