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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., Chief, Immunization Branch   
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SUBJECT: 2026 AAP Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule  
VFC access restored to MMRV for children younger than age 4 years



### Highlights

- CDPH continues to recommend providers to follow the 2026 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#).
- VFC doses of MMRV for children may be used for VFC-eligible children younger than age 4 years under the restored VFC resolution.
- Important VFC and IQIP Program reminders to support your clinic's immunization success.

### SUMMARY

The 2026 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#) has been released, with full recommendations at [Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule: United States 2026](#).

[California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) immunization recommendations](#) match the [AAP immunization schedule](#). Moreover, the current [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) immunization](#) schedules, recently reverting to the version posted with the date July 2, 2025, also align with AAP and CDPH recommendations.

All recommended vaccines are currently available for ordering through VFC.

- Measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine from VFC is again available for order and administration to VFC-eligible children of age 12 months through 4 years, in accordance with the restored [VFC resolution for MMRV](#) vaccine.
- If access to any VFC vaccines changes due to ongoing legal proceedings or other reasons, CDPH will promptly update VFC providers.

## KEY UPDATES

**As CDPH and AAP recommendations remain stable, CDC recommendations are aligned with them after reversion to pre-June 2025 recommendations**

Under the current status of [the lawsuit AAP et al. vs. Kennedy](#), all recommendations made by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) starting June 2025 have been stayed, and CDC immunization schedules have reverted to recommendations prior to June 2025.

As a result, in alignment with stable CDPH and AAP recommendations, CDC once again recommends the following vaccines routinely for all children (instead of via “Shared Clinical Decision Making”): hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, rotavirus, and meningococcal disease.

### **Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMRV) vaccine**

Children younger than 4 years may receive either the combined MMRV or the separate MMR and varicella vaccines.

- Per [VFC resolution 10/17-3](#), children  $\geq 12$  months through 12 years are eligible for VFC-supplied combined MMRV vaccine.
- [CDPH measles vaccine recommendations](#)
- [AAP Measles Vaccine Recommendations](#)

## COVID-19

- One or more doses of 2025-26 formula vaccine recommended for:
  - All 6-23 months
  - All 2-18 years with risk factors or never vaccinated against COVID-19
  - All who are in close contact with others with risk factors
  - All who choose protection
- Additional doses recommended for immunocompromised children.
- Use doses from the same manufacturer for healthy children 6 months - 4 years and immunocompromised individuals receiving initial vaccine series.
- [CDPH Immunization recommendations](#)
- [AAP COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations](#)

## Hepatitis B

- Universal hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for all infants, beginning with the first dose within 24 hours of birth. The birth dose should be followed by two additional doses to complete the series, ensuring long-term immunity.
- [AAP Birth Dose Hepatitis B Recommendations](#)

## Human papillomavirus (HPV)

- Routine vaccination recommended to start at 9-12 years, rather than the previously recommended 11-12 years.

## REPORTING SUSPECTED VACCINE ADVERSE EVENTS OR ERRORS

Providers should report suspected adverse events to any vaccine to the [Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#) at 800-822-7967 (toll-free) or (<http://vaers.hhs.gov>).

Providers should report any vaccine administration error and associated contributing factors to the [National Vaccine Errors Reporting Program \(VERP\)](#) at ([www.ismp.org/form/verp-form](http://www.ismp.org/form/verp-form)). As a part of the report, providers can make recommendations to prevent errors. This surveillance program aims to prevent errors by identifying trends, targeted education, and changing product labeling and design.

For monoclonal antibody products, such as nirsevimab/Beyfortus™, report observed or suspected adverse events to FDA through the [MedWatch](#) system.

## VFC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS REMINDER

Per the [VFC Provider Agreement Addendum](#), all active VFC Providers agree to “order all ACIP-recommended vaccines (including flu, RSV and special-order vaccines), and nonroutine vaccines when indicated or requested, to meet the needs of the total VFC-eligible patient populations reported for the provider PIN.” Additionally, VFC Providers agree that for the “vaccines identified and agreed upon in the provider profile ... will comply with immunization schedules, dosages, and contraindications that are established by the ACIP and included in the VFC program unless: a) In the provider's medical judgment, and in accordance with accepted medical practice, the provider deems such compliance to be medically inappropriate for the child; b) The particular requirements contradict state law, including laws pertaining to religious and other exemptions.”

Ensure that your practice is ordering and administering vaccines according to ACIP recommendations to protect your patients from vaccine preventable diseases. Vaccinating VFC-eligible children within their medical home ensures continuity of care, strengthens provider–patient relationships, and minimizes missed opportunities—since referring out often leads to gaps in immunization, delays in catch-up schedules, or may lead to out of pocket costs for vaccines.

### **IQIP (IMMUNIZATION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FOR PROVIDERS)**

CDPH is committed to helping your practice protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases—and IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers) is one of the easiest ways to strengthen your clinic’s immunization success. Schedule an IQIP visit with your Local CAIR Representative (LCR), and you’ll receive personalized support, including a review of your clinic’s current up-to-date rates and tailored, evidence-based strategies to boost coverage. CDPH is here to make quality improvement simple, actionable, and effective. To get started, contact [iqip@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:iqip@cdph.ca.gov).

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [AAP Immunization Schedule](#)
- [Child Immunization Schedule Notes | Vaccines & Immunizations | CDC](#)
- COVID-19 vaccine resources from [AAP](#) and [CDPH](#)
- [California Vaccines for Children \(VFC\) \(eziz.org\)](#)
- [Schedules and Recommendations – California Vaccines for Children \(VFC\)](#)
- CDPH [Public Health for All Vaccine Recommendations](#)