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To: Health Officers  
 Immunization Program Coordinators  
 Communicable Disease Control Officers  
 California Immunization Coalition members  
 Other interested health care professionals

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**Getting Ready for Flu Season, Updated Materials**

Californians are likely to need two types of influenza vaccine for the 2009-10 season. In addition to regular seasonal influenza vaccine, a pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine is in production, compounding the challenges of flu season. The Immunization Branch is working hard to keep local health departments and others up-to-date so they can be prepared to inform local communities. The Branch has updated flu-related materials for the upcoming flu season. Materials remind parents, pregnant women, health care workers, and other target populations to check with their doctor to find out if they will also need the H1N1 vaccine. The message is general, allowing for current uncertainties in H1N1 vaccine supply or doses needed. Specific items updated include:



- **Guess Who Needs a Flu Shot?** – kids postcard (IMM-781) and 4-up postcard (IMM-748)
- **Guess Who Needs a Flu Shot?** – kids flyer (IMM-782)
- **Get a Flu shot** – static cling (IMM-800)
- **Protect Them From the Flu** – flyer (IMM-812 E/S)
- **It's Not Too Late** – static cling (IMM-821 and 821-S)
- **Guess Who Needs a Flu Vaccine?** – pregnant women flyer (IMM-809, 809-S, & 809-E/S)
- **Protect Against Flu and Whooping Cough** – flyer (IMM-874)

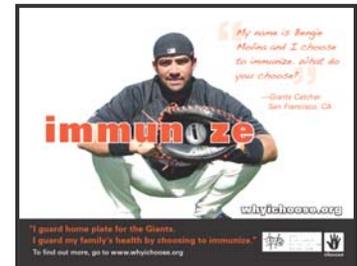
Materials are available to order in limited supplies, and all items can be downloaded from the [EZIZ.org respiratory disease prevention page](http://EZIZ.org/respiratory_disease_prevention_page). Local health departments and partners can use the 2009-10 suite of flu and respiratory prevention materials to view all relevant items in stock and online.

Uncertainties about the new H1N1 vaccine mean that more specific materials are not yet available. The Branch will keep local health departments and other stakeholders informed as new H1N1-specific materials become available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other sources.

## Immunization Education Campaigns

### NIAM: Giants Help Strike Out VPDs!

August is [National Immunization Awareness Month](http://www.immunization.org) (NIAM)! On July 28, the San Francisco Immunization Coalition (SFIC) and the San Francisco Giants kicked off NIAM with a lively event at the Bayview Child Health Center. The event promoted awareness about the “i choose” campaign and the importance of timely immunizations to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs).



Mariah Bianchi of San Francisco opened the event by speaking about the devastating effects of pertussis, which took the life of her infant in 2005. Bayview Child Health Center Director Dr. Nadine Burke, a pediatrician, answered parents’ questions about vaccines, emphasizing that vaccines are effective and the safest way to prevent diseases that affect children. The event highlighted the fact that diseases such as measles are reappearing in communities with low immunization rates.

San Francisco Giants catcher and father of three, Bengie Molina, and UCSF autism expert, Dr. Bryna Siegel, were on hand to remind parents about the importance, efficacy, and safety of childhood vaccines. Molina signed autographs and encouraged visitors to participate in the **i choose** campaign. A chorus of enthusiastic Head Start participants finished up by singing about hand washing and demonstrating the proper way to cover a cough. The event was covered by local television and newspapers, as well as by Spanish language media.

### First-of-a-Kind Spanish Website

## VACUNAS Y MI SALUD

This summer, the California Immunization Coalition (CIC) and partners launched [www.VacunasyMiSalud.org](http://www.VacunasyMiSalud.org), California’s first immunization website in Spanish. This is significant as California has the largest Latino population of any state. In fact, more than one third of Californians are Latino, and an estimated 75% of these do not speak English at home.

CIC developed the website with the help of experts in immunization and Latino health issues, including local health departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Neighborhood Healthcare, the National Meningitis Association, and the Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center. Bilingual and bicultural health professionals are developing the website with input from community members and health advocates.

The site contains information on immunization recommendations for all ages, the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, and vaccine safety. It will eventually include information on other health topics such as diabetes, nutrition, and pesticide exposure.

[VacunasyMiSalud](#) is ready to share with public health colleagues, patients, and anyone who works with the Latino community or who speaks Spanish. CIC is also seeking support in their promotion efforts. Local health departments or other community-based entities may wish to include the site as a resource on a website, brochure, or other health education materials. Other suggestions include promoting the site at events, in a newsletter, or adding it in an email signature block. For more information, or to contribute ideas for the website, contact [Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov).

## Assessments

### Kindergarten Assessments and Web Reporting



The fall 2009 reporting of kindergarten immunization assessments will be available online at [www.CalKidShots.org](http://www.CalKidShots.org). The Immunization Branch has sent out informational materials about the assessments to all Immunization Coordinators and Branch Field Representatives. The Branch will mail materials for web reporting to public school districts and private schools by September.

Although public school districts and private schools have been instructed to contact the Immunization Branch with questions, Immunization Coordinators may also receive calls from schools. The Branch encourages Coordinators to become familiar with the CalKidsShots site and key training tips:

- The password is case sensitive.
- Schools without Internet access can request a hard copy by mail
- Schools may submit their data online only once
- Schools that cannot locate their name on the online list should contact the Immunization Branch

Materials in PDF format are available online at [www.CalKidShots.org](http://www.CalKidShots.org) as well as on the [Immunization Branch homepage](#). The deadline to submit an online or hard copy report is October 15. Questions may be directed to [Teresa.Lee2@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Teresa.Lee2@cdph.ca.gov) or [Madina.Sharifi@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Madina.Sharifi@cdph.ca.gov).

## Vaccine News

### ACIP Update, New Vaccines

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met in June and July to discuss a variety of topics related to vaccine research, development, and recommendations. ACIP [meeting minutes](#) are posted 90 days after each meeting.

#### Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

Five manufacturers are now developing pandemic influenza A H1N1 vaccines, including a smaller percentage of live, attenuated intranasal vaccine.

Current forecasted priority groups for the pandemic H1N1 vaccine are:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants < 6 months of age
- Health care workers and emergency medical services personnel
- Persons 6 months - 24 years of age
- Adults 25-64 years of age with medical conditions that increase the risk of severe influenza

Much information about the pandemic vaccine is still pending.

### **Seasonal Influenza Vaccine**

Manufacturers report that they expect an estimated 120 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine this upcoming influenza season with an expected >90% of vaccine doses distributed by November 1st.

### **Hib Vaccine Recommendations**

The CDC announced reinstatement of the 12-15 month Hib booster dose. CDC officials believe there is enough supply of Hib-containing vaccine to reinstate the booster dose, although there is not enough supply to recall all patients whose booster dose has been deferred. Currently, the booster dose may be implemented using Pentacel® in California's Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, based on California's current allocation for July. The California VFC Program will need to assess its allocation of Hib-containing vaccine on a monthly basis and will keep providers apprised of the supply situation. For more information, see the latest [MMWR statement](#).

### **Rabies Vaccine Schedule**

The ACIP recommended a four-dose reduced rabies vaccine schedule for post-exposure prophylaxis. Currently, rabies vaccine is licensed as a five-dose series for post-exposure prophylaxis. The [provisional recommendations](#) are available online.

### **Pneumococcal Vaccine**

ACIP did not recommend expanding the PPSV23 vaccine target populations. It continues to recommend vaccination for currently recommended groups.

### **Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine**

A new Japanese Encephalitis vaccine (JEV-IXIARO®) was recently licensed. [Provisional recommendations](#) for use of JEV vaccine are available online.

There are several vaccines that under review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that could potentially be licensed during 2009 or early 2010. Vaccines still under consideration include:

- **Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4)**-Menveo® for adolescents
- **Bivalent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine**-Cervarix®
- **Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine**-HIBERIX® for the booster dose
- **Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine-13 valent (PCV13)**-Prevnar-13®
- **Quadrivalent HPV vaccine**, an application for an additional indication for males.

### **ACIP Briefs:**

- ACIP updated recommendations for the minimum interval for the polio vaccine between dose 3 and 4 to a minimum interval of six months (for best immunogenicity). The [updated VFC resolution](#) provides additional details.
- ACIP updated its definition of evidence of immunity for health care workers. A physician diagnosis of measles or mumps alone is no longer considered evidence of immunity; laboratory confirmation of disease is necessary. ACIP recommends two doses of MMR in outbreak settings, even for those persons born before 1957.
- ACIP recommended re-vaccination with MCV4 for adults and children who remain at high risk of meningococcal disease at specified intervals. The [updated VFC resolution](#) provides details.

## Immunization Registry

### CAIR's New Suite of Promotion and Training Materials



The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) recently released a new ["suite of materials,"](#) featuring over 40 items including promotional materials, training tools, and educational pieces for health care providers, schools, and parents. All materials may be found online. Web pages were recently updated and reorganized to make the new and updated materials easy to find. Providers can view an online [CAIR demo](#)— (newly enhanced with audio narration), read about CAIR benefits, assess their technological readiness, and print out helpful tools and tips for their staff. A new page for schools also provides information for schools or child care centers using or interested in using CAIR. All information can be found at [www.CAIRWeb.org](http://www.CAIRWeb.org). For additional information, contact [Tammy.Pilisuk@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Tammy.Pilisuk@cdph.ca.gov).

### Inland Empire Switches to CAIR!

The Inland Empire region, consisting of San Bernardino and Riverside counties, is home to over 10 percent of California residents. In July, the Inland Empire regional immunization registry (formerly known as VaxTrack) transitioned to the CAIR software application. The change affects over 700 already-enrolled providers, including nearly two-thirds of the region's VFC providers. Inland's providers join the majority of California's registry users statewide; the CAIR software is now used in eight of 11 regions, spanning 48 California counties.



Inland Empire's decision to make this change was prompted by the advantages of the web-based CAIR system. CAIR offers their registry users new inventory management functionality. Feedback from providers about the transition has been positive.

Over one million records were transferred from the old registry system. To date, about 20 percent of registry users in the region have received training on CAIR. As Letty Cherry Kreger, Registry Manager for Riverside County, put it, "Like any large system transfer, it was not without hiccups. However, the CAIR team and local registry staff worked hard to resolve those hiccups as quickly as possible."

## VPD Update

### Updated VPD Provisional Data Now Online

The latest provisional data for vaccine-preventable diseases in California with disease onset from January 1 to June 30th, 2009 (end of third quarter) are now available on the [Immunization Branch website](#). For detailed surveillance data by jurisdiction, contact [jessica.chang@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:jessica.chang@cdph.ca.gov).

## Staff Update

Melinda Castañeda recently joined the Immunization Branch as Office Technician. Melinda previously worked for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch for over a year as an Operations Support Coordinator. Before that, she worked for private industry as a Customer Service Representative and Administrative Assistant/Team Leader. She has a wide variety of administrative experience including purchasing and invoicing and is an asset to the Branch's Support Unit.

## New Educational Materials and Online Resources

Resource	Type of resource	Information source
<b>Flu Information</b>		
<a href="#">Novel H1N1 flu PSAs</a>	selection of PSAs	CDC
<a href="#">HCW Flu shot strategies</a>	report	Joint commission
<b>Immunization Topics</b>		
<a href="#">Sound Advice interviews</a>	Audio interviews on vaccine topics	American Academy of Pediatrics
<a href="#">A Broken Trust: Lessons from the Vaccine-Autism Wars</a>	e-article	<a href="http://www.plosbiology.org">www.plosbiology.org</a>
<a href="#">IZ Update - CDC's broadcast</a>	webcast	CDC
<a href="#">Shingles Vaccine Q&amp;A</a>	Fact sheet	Immunization Action Coalition
<b>Outreach Campaigns</b>		
<a href="#">Off to College brochure</a>	flyer	Immunization Branch
<b>Immunization Registry</b>		
<a href="#">CAIR Suite of Materials</a>	flyer	Immunization Branch
<a href="#">Vaccine Acronyms &amp; Abbreviations</a>	flyer	Immunization Branch
<a href="#">CAIR Workflow IZ Management</a>	flowchart	Immunization Branch
<b>Provider Education</b>		
<a href="#">Check Your Vials chart</a>	chart	Immunization Branch
<a href="#">Refrigerator temperature log (Fahrenheit)</a>	EZIZ job aide	Immunization Branch
<a href="#">Refrigerator temperature log (Celsius)</a>	EZIZ job aide	Immunization Branch
<a href="#">Freezer temperature log (Fahrenheit)</a>	EZIZ job aide	Immunization Branch
<a href="#">Freezer temperature log (Celsius)</a>	EZIZ job aide	Immunization Branch
<a href="#">Vaccine storage guide</a>	EZIZ job aide	Immunization Branch
<a href="#">Vaccine storage (refrigerator only)</a>	EZIZ job aide	Immunization Branch