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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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Countdown to California's Tdap Requirement

California's new law, AB 354, requires all three million 7th-12th graders to show proof of their Tdap booster before school entry in the fall of 2011, and we are working together to make it happen. In April, the Immunization Branch sent kits that include a flyer, tabletop tent, and bilingual reminder postcards to more than 7,000 health care providers serving adolescents throughout California.



ShotsforSchool.org continues to add new resources including:

- [A video message from Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson](#)
- [Tdap? DTaP? Td? Clinicians: Keep it Clear For Schools flyer](#)
- [A new radio PSA](#) in English and [Spanish](#)

Starting in April, billboards promoting AB 354 requirements (provided by the California Immunization Coalition) appeared in major metropolitan areas including greater Sacramento area, San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles County, Central Valley, and San Diego County.

The Immunization Branch appreciates the many efforts by local health departments, schools, coalition partners, and others to inform communities about the new requirement before next fall.

Statewide Immunization Campaigns

New Shot By Shot Stories Promote AB 354 and More

The testimonial project *Shot By Shot* allows families to directly share with others the devastating toll of vaccine-preventable diseases and the importance of immunizations. Recently, a father in Fresno recounted the ordeal of his son's bout of pertussis. Several new stories from parents losing children to influenza were donated from Families Fighting Flu. And, for the first time on Shot By Shot, a story shows the effects of Congenital Rubella Syndrome. View these new videos online:

- [La Historia de Jonathan G](#) in Spanish (pertussis) (*available soon in English!*)
- [The Story of Jessica](#) (influenza)
- [The Story of Emily](#) (influenza)
- [The Story of Alana](#) (influenza)
- [The Story of Amanda](#) (influenza)
- [The Story of Joey](#) (influenza)
- [The Story of Ian](#) (influenza)
- [Samantha's Story](#) (Congenital Rubella Syndrome)



Coming soon: stories from our colleagues at health departments. Clinicians and public health professionals are encouraged to share personal stories about vaccine-preventable diseases with Shot by Shot by contacting Amanda.Roth@cdph.ca.gov.

New HPV Spanish Webnovela now Online!

The Immunization Branch has completed its first-ever webnovela, "An Ounce of Prevention" (*Mas Vale Prevenir Que Lamentar*). This story uses the dramatic and entertaining "fotonovela" format popular with Latina women to teach about HPV and cervical cancer prevention. The story focuses on friends that learn of a close family member with cervical cancer and about the importance of routine immunization and pap tests in preventing this deadly disease.



The webnovela is currently online on www.VacunasYmiSalud.org. The eight-minute animated format is a useful tool for sharing in community settings or a clinics that serve Spanish-speaking women. A bilingual traditional fotonovela print version may be available in limited quantities in the coming months.

NIIW/TIM: Communities in Action

Nearly 40 local health departments and other organizations participated in the 2011 National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). California activities highlighted this year's campaign theme, "Immunize to Stay on Track!" Outreach efforts included participating in local health fairs and partnering with faith communities, libraries, WIC offices, coalitions, preschool and child care centers, health care providers, and others. Many organizations took advantage of Immunization Branch [campaign materials](#). Materials emphasizing the importance of Tdap and DTaP vaccines for infants and their close contacts were in demand to help combat the ongoing transmission of pertussis in California. These efforts continue throughout May with Toddler Immunization Month (TIM). The Branch will compile photos of local activities to post online. Please send copies, with a brief description, to Jenny.Bare@cdph.ca.gov.



VPD Update

2011 Measles Upsurge

Twelve measles cases have been reported in California so far this year, all originating from travel abroad. The Immunization Branch reminds clinicians to include measles in the differential diagnosis of patients with a febrile rash illness who have returned from international travel within the prior three weeks. Travelers can be exposed to measles in the country of travel, in airports, or on a plane.

In the April 8th issue of *MMWR*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), published the article [Measles Imported by Returning US Travelers Aged 6-23 months, 2001-2011](#). The article describes cases of measles in US children less than two years of age. The CDC also encourages clinicians to provide MMR vaccine to infants as young as six months of age who will be traveling to Europe, Asia, or Africa.

It may not be commonly known that measles is now widespread in Europe. To date, more than 9,000 measles cases have been reported in France since October 2010. Among these, there have been four deaths and 21 cases with neurological complications. CDPH is recommending that travelers get up-to-date on vaccinations before they leave for foreign travel. Coming soon! CDPH will make available a new measles flyer to help alert their patients who are planning vacations abroad.

Assessments

Kindergarten Selective Review and Retrospective Study

The Branch extends its thanks to California Immunization Coordinators and their staff for their diligence in completing the *2011 Kindergarten Selective Review*. Completed forms and copies of the California School Immunization Record ("Blue Card" PM-286) will be reviewed by the Immunization Branch for this year's Kindergarten Retrospective Survey.

Fall Assessments Begin

Immunization Coordinators should access child care and kindergarten lists via the new online web portal. Coordinators are then encouraged to review the lists, as any corrections will help ensure accuracy for the upcoming fall 2011 child care assessment. Coordinators may submit updates online until June 15. For questions, contact Renee.Mehra@cdph.ca.gov or Teresa.Lee2@cdph.ca.gov.

Vaccine News

FDA Expands Ages for Menactra[®] Vaccine License

On April 24, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded Menactra[®] meningococcal vaccine licensure to include infants and toddlers ages nine through 23 months. Menactra[®] is already approved for use in children and adults ages two through 55 years. Read the [FDA's press release](#) for more information.

DHHS Kicks Off National Vaccine Plan

The US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has announced plans for a National Vaccine Plan. With goals set for 2020, the plan will address vaccine research, development, financing, supply, distribution, safety, and other issues. Phase I is expected to start with a strategic planning process. Details about plan implementation are anticipated soon. See the [DHHS website](#) for details.

ACIP New Provisional Guidance for Preventing Pertussis

At the February 2011 Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting, the committee approved revised recommendations for health care personnel. The following [provisional recommendations](#) are now online.

❖ Use of Tdap in health care personnel

All health care personnel should receive a single dose of Tdap as soon as feasible, if they have not previously received Tdap (regardless of the time since their last Td dose). Hospitals and clinical settings are encouraged to provide Tdap for their work force and to educate workers about the benefits of vaccination.

❖ Post-exposure antimicrobial prophylaxis (PAP) for health care personnel

To maximize efforts to prevent transmission of *Bordetella pertussis*, respiratory precautions should be taken to prevent unprotected exposure. Some vaccinated individuals are still at risk for pertussis. PAP is recommended for health care personnel who have unprotected exposure to pertussis and are likely to expose high-risk patients (e.g., hospitalized neonates and pregnant women). Those receiving PAP should be monitored for 21 days after disease exposure and treated at the onset of signs and symptoms of pertussis.

US Supreme Court Ruling on Vaccine Court

In a case known as “Bruesewitz v. Wyeth,” the Supreme Court ruled this past February that vaccine manufacturers cannot be sued by individuals who claim to have suffered a vaccine-related injury resulting from an alleged vaccine “design defect.” In this case, Hannah Bruesewitz’s parents claimed that their daughter’s seizure disorder was caused by a whole-cell DTP vaccine. The parents argued that the manufacturer, Wyeth, should be liable for distributing the whole-cell vaccine. Their claim was that a split-cell or acellular DTP would not have caused Hannah’s injury. In essence, the parents challenged the current federal Vaccine Injury Compensation Program established by the 1985 *Vaccine Act*.

The *Vaccine Act* created a *no-fault* vaccine compensation program for individuals to petition for compensation from the US Court of Federal Claims (often referred to as “Vaccine Court”). In this system, claimants do not need prove that the manufacturer was at fault or that the vaccine was defective. The compensation fund come from fees paid for by vaccine manufacturers for each vaccine dose administered. The Bruesewitz’s claim was previously denied by the Vaccine Court, which found that the girl’s injuries were not caused by her immunization.

The Supreme Court justices ruled 6 to 2 in favor of Wyeth, indicating that the *Vaccine Act* limits suits directly against vaccine manufacturers for vaccine-related injuries to specific negligence. This would include improper manufacturing or a pharmaceutical manufacturer’s failure to provide adequate warnings. The majority opinion upheld the existing *Vaccine Act*, which both expedites valid claims and protects our nation’s vaccine production. Read the [full Supreme Court decision](#) or the [press release from the American Academy of Pediatrics](#) online.

Provider Education

IZ Branch Staff Presentations at 2011 NIC

The 2011 National Immunization Conference (NIC) was held in Washington this past March. Among the presentations were several from the Immunization Branch that helped highlight key Branch achievements over the past year. Check out copies of the presentations online:



- [Longitudinal Evaluation of the EZ-IZ Online Training](#)
- [Epidemiology of Pertussis in California](#)
- [Surveillance of Significant Adverse Events Temporally Associated with 2009 Pandemic Influenza A \(H1N1\) Vaccine In California](#)
- [Invasive Meningococcal Infections Despite Immunization](#)

These presentations were conducted in collaboration with the California Immunization Coalition:

- [Shot by Shot: Stories of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases](#)
- [Gathering Vaccine Questioners In Your Community: The Parent Forum Event Kit](#)

CAIR Update

CAIR Website: New Look, New Features!

It's the same URL, www.CAIRWeb.org, but California's Immunization Registry (CAIR) website has been redesigned to clearly help four core audiences:

- Providers New to CAIR
- CAIR users
- Parents
- Schools and Agencies



The site prominently displays the new State CAIR Help Desk phone number. In addition, there is now a selection of new two to five minute [online training modules](#), perfect for new users to get started learning how to use CAIR! Providers can also access updated information on [how CAIR works with an office's electronic medical record \(EMR\) system](#), including [technical specifications](#) for exchanging data with CAIR.

The site now features a real-life [CAIR champion user](#) and invites other CAIR users to submit their stories directly from the site's homepage. Those who know dedicated CAIR users in their communities can encourage them to use the online form to be acknowledged as a "champion" and inspire others.

For parents, the site clearly addresses the common questions about where to find family immunization records and when CAIR is most likely to be helpful.

The site will continue to be updated with new resources. In particular, stay tuned for a new CAIR training module especially for schools who want to use CAIR, coming soon!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Partners/ Sponsors	Website/ Contact Info
May 1-30	Toddler Immunization Month	California Immunization Coalition (CIC)	www.immunizeCa.org
May 19 San Francisco	WREN Conference	Western Regional Epidemiology Network	www.wrenconference.org/
May 24	No summer vacation for pertussis – How are Health Plans and Provider Groups Implementing the New Tdap Requirement?	UC-TV in collaboration with the CDPH Immunization Branch	https://cdph-ooa.webex.com/cdph-ooa/j.php?ED=172059527&RG=1&UID=1221290577&RT=MiMO
May 25	Speak Up! Virtual Immunization Symposium	VICNetwork	http://speakup2011.vicnetwork.org/home.html
June 14 (on-demand thereafter)	Preventing Cervical Cancer in Latinas: A New Resource	UC-TV in collaboration with the Immunization Branch	http://uctv.tv/search-details.aspx?showID=21564
June 19-20 San Francisco	2011 Western Regional Maternal and Children Health Epidemiology (MCH EPI) Conference	Western Regional Maternal and Children Health Epidemiology	MCH EPI Conference
August	National Immunization Awareness Month	CDC	N/A
August 4	CDC's immunization Update Satellite Broadcast and Live Webcast	CDC	www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/courses.htm#webcastcalendar
August 9-11 Atlanta, GA	2011 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media	CDC	www.cdc.gov/NCHCMM

New Educational Materials and Online Resources

Print Resources for Download	Type of resource
2011 Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (Pink Book)	Online book
Updated VIS on HPV4	Fact sheet
CAIR Data Exchange Checklist	Fact Sheet
Tdap? DTaP? Td? Clinicians: Keep it Clear for Schools	Flyer
Vaccine Safety: 10 Facts for MAs (IMM-1016, English & Spanish)	Fact sheet (print copies available for order from your local health dept)
Webinars and Online Presentations	
Community Parent Forum How- to Guide: Helping Coalitions Implement a Best Practice	Downloadable PPT presentation
California Immunization Coalition Summit 2011	Downloadable PPT presentations
The Science of Timing	Webinar
Teens, Tweens, Parents and Vaccines	Webinar
Addressing Parents' Concerns about Vaccines.	Webinar