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To: Immunization Program Coordinators  
California Immunization Coalition members  
California VFC Providers

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**Tdap Law Year 1, Many Thanks from the IZ Branch!**

It may have taken an epidemic to get the law passed, but it took all of us to make it work! When the new school law (AB 354) requiring Tdap vaccination for 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders passed last year, there was less than 12 months to inform the public,



orient schools, and get immunization and records for 3 million students. That's a very short window to implement a brand new law. Complicating matters was the fact that California middle and high schools had little experience with immunization requirements, in contrast to kindergarten and elementary schools.

The Immunization Branch extends its gratitude to the hard-working individuals and entities that made it all possible: parents and students, health care providers, state, regional and local educational partners (including the Department of Education), and California's local health departments. All these stakeholders played vital roles in implementing the new law and protecting public health. Their extraordinary efforts resulted in a successful first year roll-out of the Tdap law in record time. Local health departments are encouraged to use the [certificate of appreciation](#) template to give to schools in their regions.

Stayed tuned to [ShotsforSchool.org](http://ShotsforSchool.org) in early 2012 for new materials for the ongoing 7<sup>th</sup> grade-only Tdap requirement.

## Statewide Immunization Campaigns

### Preteen Vaccine Week, Feb 12-18, 2012!

The Immunization Branch is planning for Preteen Vaccine Week 2012, which promotes immunizations as part of a comprehensive preteen care visit. The [PVW planning kit](#) and supplemental [educational activities](#) are available online and tailored specifically for the 2012 Tdap school law for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders. The kit contains tools, sample press releases and talking points in English and Spanish, and letters to school districts, parents, and physicians.



Those interested in learning more about PVW are invited to join the campaign team's calls. For details contact [Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov).

### HPV Fotonovela Wins National Prize!

The Immunization Branch claimed second place in the national **2011 Health Literacy Innovators Award** competition's "Reads Easy" category. The bilingual (English/Spanish) booklet provides information about the HPV vaccine and cervical cancer in an engaging comic book-style. Main messages are to educate Latina women about the importance of regular pap tests and immunizing preteens against HPV.



The fotonovela is already being used by many California clinics and promotoras (Latina health outreach workers). Health care professionals can order free copies from their local health department by referencing **IMM-1049**. For more information about the fotonovela, contact [Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov).

### New Tools for Influenza Vaccine Promotion

With plenty of influenza vaccine available across the state, everyone is encouraged to continue educational efforts now and throughout the flu season. Think flu shots before traveling for Thanksgiving. For immunization advocates, it's important to remember that flu can peak as late as the Spring. Therefore, promotion to get flu vaccine should continue well into 2012.



To assist with influenza promotion, the Immunization Branch has developed several new tools, including:

- [2011-12 Influenza Template Messages](#)
- [Social Media Influenza Template Messages](#)

For a complete list of influenza resources, including flyers, posters, and videos, visit the [Flu & Respiratory Disease Prevention Promotional Materials](#) on EZIZ.org. For those on the go, there is also a growing selection of flu-related smart phone apps at [CDC Flu App Challenge](#).

## Shot by Shot Keeps Growing!

In the past three months, the California Immunization Coalition's (CIC) award-winning Shot by Shot story gallery has added new videos, including:

- [Heather's Story](#) (cervical cancer)
- [Patti's Story](#) (cervical cancer)
- [Belinda's Story](#) (cervical cancer)
- [Dawn's Story](#) (cervical cancer)
- [Breanne's Story](#) (influenza)
- [Dr. Swartzberg's Story](#) (measles)
- [Courtney's Story](#) (meningitis)
- [Jonathan G's Story](#) (pertussis)
- [Richard D's Story](#) (polio)



There are many ways to use these personal stories to enhance awareness and education about vaccine-preventable diseases; check out Shot by Shot's [stories in action](#) page for examples. More information is also available from the archived webinar: [Stories in Action: Leveraging the Power of Making Issues Personal](#).

## Assessments

### 7-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Assessments

All schools with students in the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are required to report on the number of students with a documented Tdap vaccination or an exemption for the new Tdap law **by December 1**. Schools can locate the *Pertussis (Tdap) Assessment of 7-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students – 2011-2012 Summary Sheet* at [www.ShotsforSchool.org](http://www.ShotsforSchool.org). Administrative access and log-in details have been sent to counties. Local health departments are encouraged to contact middle and high schools in their jurisdiction to help them complete this new report.

### Kindergarten and Child Care Assessments

The “*Immunization Assessment of Kindergarten Students Annual Report*” and the “*Annual Immunization Report on Children Enrolled in Child Care Centers*” (CDPH 8108) were due to the Immunization Branch in October. As a reminder, **these reports must be completed by December 1**.

To make sure data are as complete as possible, Immunization Coordinators are urged to use their county-specific lists of kindergarten schools, licensed child care centers, and Head Start programs to contact delinquent schools and child care centers to assist them in completing their reports. An aggregate report of all child care centers per county, *Summary Report* (CDPH 8388), will be completed by the State in the coming months. For questions, contact [RMehra@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:RMehra@cdph.ca.gov) (510) 620-3757 or [Teresa.Lee2@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Teresa.Lee2@cdph.ca.gov) (510) 620-3746.

## Vaccine News

### ACIP Recommends HPV Vaccine for Males

At their late October 2011 meeting, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend that all males up to 21 years of age, and high-risk males up to age 26, should be immunized against HPV. Since October 2009, the quadrivalent HPV vaccine (Gardasil®) has been licensed and available to males from age 9-26. Now, the HPV vaccine is recommended as part of the preteen vaccine platform, optimally given at age 11-12 years. These recommendations are likely to be published in 2012.

### Mumps at UC Berkeley

In October, a mumps outbreak was identified at the University of California, Berkeley campus. The index case was an unvaccinated student who had recently returned from the United Kingdom. The student spread the disease to his roommate. To date there have been 18 confirmed cases and an additional 16 suspected cases still under investigation. The university, which recommends but does not require MMR for students, provided free MMR clinics for students, faculty and staff campus-wide.

The Immunization Branch responded to the outbreak by forwarding [informational materials](#) for students and providing MMR vaccine to the student health center. While this outbreak appears to be contained to the UC Berkeley campus, the Branch also prepared a letter to California college health centers on how to recognize and react to mumps cases, should the outbreak spread.

### Varicella Outbreak in Humboldt School

In October 2011 a Humboldt County K-8 school had an outbreak of 22 cases of chickenpox that included a pregnant teacher. The school, with a student body of just 174, has a personal belief exemption (PBE) rate of 38%, and 86% of infected students had a PBE on file. The index case student also spread the disease to all siblings in the immediate family and their pregnant mother. Humboldt County Health Department has worked to contain the outbreak.

### Pertussis in California

The most current data available (October 2011) indicate that there have been 2,734 cases since the beginning of 2011. The majority of illness has been in infants (78%). Over 210 cases have been hospitalized. As of mid-November, no deaths have been reported in 2011.

### Measles Upsurge Across the US

As of the end of October there had been 205 cases of measles reported in the US, compared to just 31 cases for the same time period in 2010. Measles cases have been linked to people traveling to or from Europe, Asia and Africa. To date, there have been 28 cases of measles in California.

CDPH continues to advise overseas travelers to make sure they are up-to-date on MMR vaccinations and has created educational materials for [clinicians](#), [hospital emergency rooms](#), and airports to help [individuals](#) and quickly identify anyone potentially exposed to measles, or with measles symptoms, to minimize spreading the disease.

## Provider Education

### New Resources on EZIZ

Providers are encouraged to visit the [eziz.org](http://eziz.org) website to find new materials for flu season and updates to the site's nationally-recognized interactive training modules.



Get staff ready for flu season.

- New [Flu Vial Visual ID Chart](#) to help staff easily and accurately identify the appropriate vaccine for each patient and avoid mix-ups.

Log-in to [EZIZ Training](#) to view:

- **New video demonstrations** to help clinical staff prepare pre-filled syringes, administer nasal and oral vaccines, educate parents, and more.
- **Updated video content** for the lessons "Preparing Vaccines" and "Administering Vaccines."

New this month! VFC providers can now order their VFC vaccines online. Providers can refer to a new [tutorial video](#) and a [quick 1-page resource guide](#) to help them get started.

## CAIR Update

### More CAIR Trainings Now Available



New to California's Immunization Registry (CAIR)? CAIR is making it easier than ever to get online training with a live instructor without having to leave the office. CAIR is continuing to add additional training times to its ongoing [training calendar](#). It's easy to sign up online for specialized training dedicated to medical office staff, schools and daycare, or power users.

Additional [self-paced training modules](#) are available any time to learn the basics or refresh skills. For additional information, contact the CAIR Help Desk at 800-578-7889.

The CAIR team has recently relocated to the main CDPH campus in Richmond. CAIR users should not notice any disruption or change in service.

## Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Observances

Date	Event	Partners/ Sponsors
December 4-10	National Influenza Vaccination Week	<a href="#">Centers for Disease Control</a>
January 2012	Cervical Cancer Prevention Month	<a href="#">National Cervical Cancer Coalition</a>
February 12-18	Preteen Vaccine Week	<a href="#">CDPH Immunization Branch</a>
April 23-24 Sacramento	Save the date! CIC Summit	<a href="#">California Immunization Coalition</a>
May 23-25 New Orleans	Save the date! 10th National Conference on Immunization and Health Coalitions (NCIHC)	Louisiana Shots for Tots Coalition 504-838-5300

## New Educational Materials and Online Resources

New Downloadable Print Materials	Type of Resource
<a href="#">CDC's Flu dosing chart 2011</a>	Chart
<a href="#">Flu Vaccine Mix-up Chart</a>	Chart
<a href="#">Influenza: What You Should Know</a> (updated fall 2011)	Flyer
<a href="#">Mumps college "basketballs" poster</a> (males)	Poster
<a href="#">Mumps college poster</a> (females)	Poster
<a href="#">Updated college meningococcal disease college brochure</a>	Brochure
<a href="#">Preteen Vaccine Week Campaign Kit 2012</a>	Kit/Booklet
<a href="#">Aluminum in Vaccines: What You Should Know</a>	Flyer
New On-Demand Webinars	Type of Resource
Archived: <a href="#">What's New with Flu?</a> (VIC Network)	Webinar
Archived: <a href="#">Stories in Action: Leveraging the Power of Making Issues Personal</a> (CA Immunization Coalition)	Webinar
Archived: <a href="#">Epidemiology of VPDs course</a> (Immunize Nevada)	Webinar