



Immunization Branch, California Department of Public Health, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Richmond, CA (510) 620-3737

To: Immunization Program Coordinators
California Immunization Coalition members
VFC Providers

August 2012

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Measles – An Olympic Souvenir?

CDPH is alerting physicians, hospitals and communicable disease investigators to [“think measles – act immediately”](#) for recent international travelers with a fever and a rash. This includes travelers who have returned to California from the London 2012 Olympics or other trips in Europe, Asia or Africa.

Measles is highly contagious and can spread easily at crowded events. A spectator at the 2012 Super Bowl in Indiana exposed hundreds of fans and led to 12 additional cases of measles.

CDPH sent health alerts to local health departments and physicians in July. The messages: Measles can be prevented if [international travelers make sure that they have been immunized before departure.](#)

When international travelers become ill, prompt identification and isolation of patients suspected of having measles are essential to stop the outbreak.



Statewide Immunization Campaigns

Students Heading Back to School: Ongoing 7th Grade Tdap Requirement

[Eighteen states outside of California have reported elevated pertussis rates](#) during the first half of 2012. California remains vigilant in promoting pertussis prevention. In late July, a [CDPH press release](#) was sent out reminding families that incoming 7th graders will need to furnish proof of a Tdap vaccination by the first day of school. Updated resources available on the www.ShotsforSchool.org website offer help for providers, schools, and parents to prepare for the 7th grade Tdap requirement.

The Immunization Branch will continue to send schools and health care providers frequent reminder e-mails about the Tdap requirement into September. Health Departments and schools need to identify local providers of immunization to assist students who have not yet received a dose of Tdap.

Celebrate NIAM!

August is [National Immunization Information Month](#) (NIAM)! CDPH is highlighting this observance by reminding families, schools, and health care providers about back-to-school immunizations. Health care providers, schools and parents looking for more information should visit www.ShotsforSchool.org or check out the CDC's [NIAM Toolkit](#).

Preparing for Flu Season 2012-13

The Immunization Branch has scores of materials to promote influenza vaccinations posted at the [Flu and Respiratory Disease page](#) on the EZIZ website. [Updated 2012-13 Vaccine Information Statements](#) (VISs) for each of the influenza vaccine formulations are also online.



Federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations will be posted this month at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm#flu.

To ensure that providers have the latest information on influenza, check out these tools:

- [National Influenza Summit slides](#)
- [Educating Older Adults About Influenza and Vaccination](#) (National council on Aging)
- [CDC's Flu Vaccine Finder](#) (going live this summer). The Finder search engine will show the nearest flu clinic, after entering a zip code. Or,
- [Influenza Vaccination: A Summary for Clinicians](#), CDC's web page.

Vaccine News

317 Vaccine -- Funding and Guidelines

Federal Section 317 funds for purchasing "317 vaccines" supplied to local health departments have been reduced. In response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued new national guidelines for the use of 317 vaccines. In July, the Immunization Branch sent a letter alerting Health Officers and Immunization Coordinators about the upcoming changes.



317 vaccines will continue to be provided free to individuals who lack private health insurance and are not eligible for the VFC program. Effective October 1, 2012, local health departments (LHDs) will *not* be able to administer vaccines purchased with Section 317 funds to *fully-insured* children or adults, except in limited circumstances that include:

- Outbreak response
- Post-exposure prophylaxis
- Disaster relief efforts
- Mass vaccination campaigns or exercises for public health preparedness.

Underinsured children may continue to receive VFC- funded vaccine from either a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or a Rural Health Clinic (RHC). Providers using CAIR can find [updates on vaccine dose reporting in the registry](#). Additional information about public health clinic vaccines is available from California's [local health departments](#).

ACIP Meeting Presentations

Presentations from the [June 20-21, 2012 meeting](#) of the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are now available online on the CDC website.

Shingles Vaccine Study

Zhang and colleagues at the University of Alabama have found that the shingles vaccine appears to be both safe and effective in individuals with psoriasis and other autoimmune disorders. Their [study](#) appears in the July 4, 2012 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Branch News

The IZ Branch Gets Strategic!

This summer, the Immunization Branch has embarked on the development of a five-year strategic plan. Spearheaded by Branch Chief, Dr. John Talarico, Branch staff are contributing their perspectives in the arenas of epidemiology, vaccine distribution, communications, research, policy, and information technology.



The Branch's vision is a California free of vaccine preventable diseases. Our mission is *to facilitate high, sustained immunization levels within the population and to interrupt vaccine- preventable disease (VPD) transmission when it occurs in California.*

Five-year goals include:

- Support local health departments in their efforts to eliminate VPDs
- Minimize barriers to vaccinations
- Maximize demand for immunization through awareness, education, and policy
- Ensure proper immunization practices
- Control VPD transmission when it occurs
- Utilize IT solutions to support vaccination efforts, and
- Maintain and improve Branch operations to efficiently support Branch goals.

This strategic plan will help the Branch keep Californians of all ages healthier.

Provider Education

New Provider Education Resources

A variety of new resources are now available online to keep up-to-date with immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases. Take a moment to peruse these online tools and presentations:



Immunization, General

- [CDC's Immunization Update 2012](#) (launches August 16, to be archived for on-demand viewing by September)
- [Vaccines: a free online course](#) from the University of Pennsylvania
- [CDC Toolkit on safe injection practices](#)
- [Red Book online](#), a guide to immunization practices from the American Academy of Pediatrics (subscription required)

Disease Surveillance

- [Blue Print 2.0: Public Health Surveillance for the 21 Century](#)
- [Interim guidance for lab testing of persons with suspected infection with H5N1 virus](#)
- [Updated guidelines for Management of Hep B-Infected Health Care Providers and Students](#)

See also, "Upcoming Events" and "New Online Resources" (Page 6) for additional information sources.

Assessments

Child Care, Kindergarten, and 7th Grade Immunization Assessments

Child care, kindergarten, and 7th grade immunization assessment reporting for the 2012-2013 school year are available online at www.ShotsForSchool.org. Information about assessments was emailed to Immunization Coordinators and Branch Field Representatives in July 2012.

❖ Kindergarten and 7th Grade Assessments

In August, the Branch is mailing instructions for online reporting to public school districts and private schools. Although schools have been advised to contact the Branch's School Assessments Unit with questions, Immunization Coordinators may also be contacted. Coordinators should familiarize themselves with the ShotsForSchool.org site and remember these tips:

- **Passwords** will be sent out the first week in September to kindergarten and 7th grade sites, going to public school districts and private school principals.
- **Schools without Internet capability** can request a hard copy by mail.
- **Online data reporting is permitted only once.** Schools wanting to revise their numbers should contact the Immunization Assessments Unit.
- **New schools and schools that cannot locate their names on the online list** should contact the Immunization Assessments Unit.
- **PDF materials** are available at www.ShotsForSchool.org/reportingtools.
- **The deadline to submit** an online or hard copy report for **kindergarten** is **October 15, 2012** and for **7th Grade** is **November 1, 2012**.

❖ Child Care Assessments

Materials for online reporting are being sent to Immunization Coordinators in August. Coordinators should contact the Immunization Assessments Unit if materials are not received by the third week in August. Reports are due **October 1, 2012**.

For additional questions, Immunization Assessments Unit: Kathleen.Abanilla@cdph.ca.gov or Teresa.Lee2@cdph.ca.gov.

Staff Updates

Cecilia Bird, MSN, PHN, NP-C is a new Research Scientist measuring the efficacy of Tdap vaccine using data from the 2010 pertussis epidemic. Prior to joining the Branch, she worked at a family health clinic in Winooski, Vermont and earned her master's degree from the University of Vermont.

Amber Christiansen, MPH is the Branch's new Policy Analyst. She previously worked on program and policy issues with the CDPH Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG). Her MPH is from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Paige Thompsen is a new Web Developer with the Branch's CAIR team. Paige previously was a Website Specialist at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She earned her BA degree and web certificate from Lindenwood University in Missouri.

Kathleen Albanilla, MPH joined the Branch as Population Assessment Coordinator with the school assessment team. She previously was the Data Access Center Manager at UCLA, working on the California Health Information Survey. Her MPH is from Boston University.

Anna Clayton, MPH is the Branch's new Research Assistant and Coordinator of the "VIP Program" for volunteers, also assisting with disease surveillance and data management. She previously was a Research Assistant at the Prevention Institute. Her MPH is from San Francisco State University.

Randy Caranto is the Immunization Branch's new Office Technician. As primary receptionist, it may well be Randy's voice that greets you if you call the Branch. Before coming to the Branch, Randy worked at the Department of Industrial Relations in San Francisco. He attended City College in San Francisco.

Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Observances

Date	Event	Partners/ Sponsors	Website/ Contact Info
August	National Immunization Awareness Month	CDC	http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/default.htm
Oct 27-31 San Francisco CA	Prevention and Wellness Across the Lifespan, APHA Annual Meeting	American Public Health Association	http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting/
Dec 2-8	National Influenza Vaccine Week	CDC	http://www.cdc.gov/flu/NIVW/index.htm

New Online Resources

Resource Title	Type of resource
How to Respond to Vaccine-Hesitant Parents (IZ Partnership, TX)	Webinar/Online Training
How Health Care Providers Can Engage the Media to Communicate Positive & Accurate Vaccine Messages	Webinar/Online Training
Time-Efficient Skills to Address Vaccine-Hesitant Parents: Focus Group Results and Best Practices	Webinar/Online Training
Communicating Risk-benefit of Vaccination to Patients	Webinar/Online Training
Coughing Up the Facts on Pertussis – Emerging Trends & Vaccine Recommendations	Webinar/Online Training
Informal Learning and Social Media: Upskilling for 21st Century	Webinar/Online Training
Listening, Learning, Leveraging: How Social Media Can Inform Your Program	Webinar/Online Training