



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

November 2012

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New State PBE Law Takes Effect in 2014

On September 30, Governor Brown signed [Chapter 821, Statutes of 2012 \(AB 2109, Pan\)](#). Beginning in 2014, parents or guardians seeking an exemption because of their personal beliefs (PBE) to an immunization required for California students will need to document for schools:

1. Their receipt of information about immunizations and communicable diseases from authorized health care practitioners, who are also required to document their provision of such information.
 - This documentation may not be signed more than 6 months prior to when immunization is required (typically, the start of the school year).
 - Authorized health care practitioners will include licensed physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, naturopathic doctors, and credentialed school nurses.
2. Which required immunizations the student has received and not received.



In signing the bill, the [Governor stated](#) that he will direct CDPH to allow for a separate religious exemption. Additional information about this and overall implementation of the law will become available in 2013 and 2014. Other new immunization laws for California taking effect in 2013 include:

Chapter 267 (SB 659, Negrete, McLeod) permits the inclusion of tuberculosis testing data in California's Immunization Registry (CAIR). [Read more...](#)

Chapter 443 Statues of 2012 (AB 2009, Gagliani) allows CDPH to provide guidance on prioritizing its supplies of influenza vaccine for health departments using federal ACIP and other criteria. [Read more...](#)

Statewide Immunization Campaigns

Flu Season and NIVW

[National Influenza Vaccination Week](#) (NIVW) is December 2 to 8. The observance promotes influenza vaccinations throughout the nation.

Influenza vaccination rates in persons younger than age 65 are no higher than 50 percent. Moreover, [CDC's new report on influenza vaccination of health care personnel](#) shows only about 60 percent coverage for health care workers (HCWs) overall, with even lower rates in among those in long-term care facilities, ancillary office personnel, and younger workers. California's 2011-12 vaccination rate for [health care workers in acute care hospitals](#) is similar (64.3%). The Healthy People 2020 goal for HCW flu vaccination is 90%. Use NIVW to help improve coverage in California communities.



In October, CDPH issued a [press release](#) encouraging Californians to get vaccinated against influenza. Local health departments and coalitions may wish to use ready-made [flu message templates](#) and sample [social media flu messages](#) to help get the word out during NIVW.

Dozens of downloadable 2012-13 [flu vaccination informing materials](#) are posted on EZIZ.org. And, as the holidays approach, order an old favorite: the "[Wash Your Hands](#)" holiday jingle, IMM-830 (also available in [Spanish](#)). Audio CDs are in stock and ready to ship! IZ Coordinators should contact the Branch Materials Manager, Mario.Gutierrez@cdph.ca.gov. An accompanying [lesson plan](#) for elementary schools is online.

Preteen Vaccine Week 2013



Preteen Vaccine Week (PVW) will be February 10-16, 2013. Local health departments, coalition members and others are invited to join team planning calls. Upcoming calls are tentatively scheduled for Wednesdays at 11am on Nov. 28 and Dec. 19. A [PVW Campaign kit](#), [talking points](#), a [PVW materials order form](#) and more are already available online. For more information on how to get involved, contact Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov.

Shot by Shot Adds New Stories

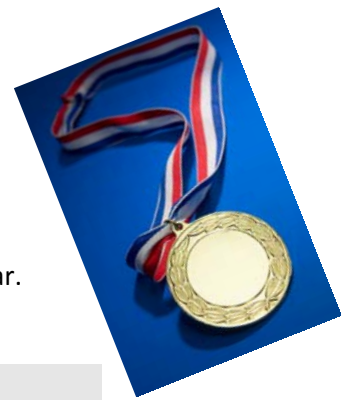
The California Immunization Coalition's Shot by Shot storybank collection continues to grow. In recent months, four new stories have been added to the website's story gallery. Check out these latest additions. For more information or ideas on using stories in the community, contact: info@shotbyshot.org or visit ShotbyShot.org.

- [Brady's Story](#) (pertussis, written)
- [Ramona's Story](#) (pertussis)
- [Anthony's Story](#) (hepatitis B)
- [Courtney's Story](#) (meningococcal disease)



IZ Branch Wins Gold!

The National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) awarded the CDPH Immunization Branch a gold award for *excellence in health communication* for the 2012 brochure “**Vaccines for Your Preteen.**” The brochure, released during Preteen Vaccine Week last February, was one of the most popular items downloaded this year. The brochure is available online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



Vaccine News

Recent Study Finds HPV Vaccine Safe

Researchers at the Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center in Northern California studied almost 200,000 females aged 9 to 26 years who received at least one dose of HPV vaccine between 2006 and 2008. Adverse events associated with the HPV vaccine were limited to fainting and infrequent skin infection around the injection site. The study is in the [Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine](#).

New Vaccine Error Reporting System

The institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), a nonprofit federally-certified patient safety organization, has created a confidential online system at: <http://verp.ismp.org/> to report vaccine administration errors—regardless of whether any harm resulted.

Reported data will be analyzed for trends in errors. ISMP will also securely share error data with the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and, when applicable, with the FDA and vaccine manufacturers. Providers should continue to report adverse events occurring after immunizations, whether given correctly or not, to [VAERS](#).

New 317 Vaccine Policy Now in Effect

The Immunization Branch has informed California health care providers and local health departments (LHDs) that a [change in federal section 317 policy](#) is now in effect. The CDC stipulates that effective October 1, 2012, 317 vaccine can no longer be used for immunizing *insured* individuals. Therefore, LHDs may not administer vaccines purchased with 317 funds to fully insured children or adults. Private physicians who have been referring their patients to public health clinics for routine vaccination will need to consider how to meet the preventive care needs of their fully-insured private patients.



VFC Program – National Pentacel® Shortage

California VFC providers were informed that the vaccine Pentacel (DTaP,IPV/Hib combination) will be in short supply through April of 2013. More information and guidance for immunizing children during the shortage can be found at [EZIZ.org](#).

NIS 2011 Results, Updated Child and Adolescent Data

The National Immunization Survey (NIS) results for [children 0-35 months](#) and [adolescents 13-17 years](#) were published recently by the CDC. In all, California achieved a 77.6% overall coverage rate for routine childhood vaccines during 2011, about the same as the previous year. Completion of the three-dose HPV vaccination series lags behind coverage rates for other adolescent vaccines.

ACIP on PCV13 for Immunocompromised Adults

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued recommendations for the use of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) for certain immunocompromised adults. For more details, read the [full recommendation](#) online.

VPD-EPI Update

California Efforts to Reduce Pertussis Recognized

2012 has been one of the worst years in recent history for pertussis cases in Minnesota, Washington, Wisconsin and other states. California's leadership in expanding vaccination recommendations during the 2010 pertussis epidemic was recently cited in the [California Health Report](#).

The Immunization Branch's latest *Vaccine-Preventable Disease Surveillance Report* will be released in the coming weeks.



New CDPH Reporting Requirements for Mumps

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) has updated their [case definitions](#). Providers should use the [updated report forms](#) for mumps cases with onset in 2012. More [information on mumps](#) is available on the CDPH website.

Measles and Rubella Continue to Spread in Europe

During the first half of 2012, over 18,000 cases of measles and over 20,000 cases of rubella were reported throughout Europe by the [World Health Organization](#). The recent upsurge in the two diseases warns us that herd immunity is eroding where immunization rates have fallen. Please remind your patients and communities that serious and preventable diseases are "just a plane ride away."



Multi-State Drop in Varicella Cases

Varicella cases decreased by nearly 70 percent in a [CDC study](#) of 30 states (not including California) since a booster dose was recommended for children in 2006. The largest drop was in children age five to nine years old.

Provider Education

New Immunization Apps for Providers

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) has a new [web page](#) featuring selected immunization apps for clinicians. Here's a sampling of what's available for smart phones— all offered as free downloads.

- [ACP Immunization Advisor](#) (American College of Physicians) includes the latest vaccine indications.



- [Disease of the Week](#) (CDC) pulls together health-related journal articles, disease-of-the-week information, and access to social media.
- [Shots](#) (Society of Teachers of Family Medicine) is a virtual advisor on vaccination recommendations for patients based on age, health status, and other factors.

Immunization Branch Represented at APHA

The 2012 American Public Health Association (APHA) conference was held in San Francisco in late October.

- Epidemiologist Kathleen Winter presented findings on ***Hospitalization costs associated with liver disease, liver cancer, or liver transplants infected with hepatitis B or hepatitis C, California 2010***. For more information or a copy of the presentation, contact Kathleen.Winter@cdph.ca.gov.
- Health Educator Tammy Pilisuk presided over a themed invited session, ***Creative messaging to counter misconceptions about vaccine safety***. The session highlighted four innovative California-based projects including the:
 - “I Choose” project in South Los Angeles
 - Making of fotonovelas promoting HPV vaccination for Latina mothers of preteens
 - Shot by Shot: Stories of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases - web-based storybank
 - Community vaccine safety parent forum model and how-to manual.

For more information or copies of panelists’ presentations, contact Tammy.Pilisuk@cdph.ca.gov.

Last but not least, congratulations are in order to Branch Health Educator, Suzi Bouveron, for being honored at this year’s annual meeting by her alma mater, Boston University (BU). BU named Suzi the *2012 Distinguished Alumni Award* for her tremendous dedication and commitment in the field of public health. Way to go, Suzi!



Suzi Bouveron, MPH

New on EZIZ! Inventory Lesson and Training Page

EZIZ recently added a new training module, [Conducting a Physical Inventory](#) to its online training curriculum for California’s VFC program. The new lesson helps learners:

- Count VFC vaccine in their vaccine inventory
- Locate vaccine name, brand name, lot number, and expiration date on vaccine boxes
- Find doses per box and type of packaging on the *VFC Vaccine Inventory Form*
- Complete the *VFC Vaccine Inventory Form*.



The lesson also debuts two job aids:

- [How to Do a Physical Inventory](#), used to describe each step in the inventory process.
- [VFC Vaccine Inventory Form](#), which now identifies the presentation (vials or syringes) of all VFC vaccines.

The lessons in the training were developed especially for medical assistants working for California VFC providers, who are required to report vaccine inventory when ordering VFC vaccines. However, the training is free and available on-demand to everyone!

Also new: Check out EZIZ's new [training page](#). This is a repository of current and on-demand web-based training resources, especially webinars, on timely immunization topics conducted by the CDC and other trusted sources.

CAIR News

CAIR Help Desk Gets High Marks



Have a question or concern? New to the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) and want more information? CAIR's friendly and professional Help Desk team will answer your questions quickly and efficiently.

The latest customer satisfaction surveys shows that most callers have their issue resolved in one call, typically within 5-10 minutes. Emails are generally handled in one exchange and answered within 12 to 72 hours.

Customer service was rated as good or excellent by 95% to 100% of those surveyed. Indicators include courtesy, knowledge, and ability to resolve the issue at hand. The Help Desk team is open for business Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

Branch Staff Updates

Erin Murray, PhD, MSPH, is the Branch's new Epidemiologist Supervisor, working on surveillance and special studies of selected VPDs. Erin has served as Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the CDPH STD Control and TB Control Branches. Erin earned her doctorate in Epidemiology from Emory University.

Anthony Moore is the Branch's new Research Associate in the Epi and Surveillance Section where he is working on a special Enhanced Measles Surveillance Project. For the past four years, Anthony served as the Viral and Rickettsial Diseases Laboratory's (VRDL) Medical & Epidemiology Liaison Section. Prior to coming to CDPH, Anthony coordinated the City of Berkeley's Active Choices for Seniors program. He has a history degree from Holy Names College and plans to pursue an MPH.

Monica Hernandez is the CAIR Implementation Specialist for the Central Coast, training new users on CAIR. She previously worked at Ventura County on EHRs and CAIR. She has a degree in Paralegal Studies from Santa Barbara Business College and is a credentialed Drug Treatment Specialist.

Danielle Sullivan joined the CAIR team as a CAIR Help Desk Technician where she responds to inquiries from CAIR users and others looking for technical support or information. Danielle previously taught preschool. She received her degree in liberal arts and civic studies from St. Mary's College.

Megan Brunner is the newest VFC Program Customer Service Representative. She comes to the Branch after five years of customer service and office management for a small company. Megan received BA degrees in molecular and cell biology and political science from UC Berkeley.

Megan Rilla is the Branch's newest Administrative Assistant where she helps support Branch staff and serves as Records Retention Coordinator. Megan's last position was at UCSF, assisting research on Hepatitis C in injectable drug users. Her degree in sociology is from Sonoma State University.

Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Observances

Date	Event	Partners/ Sponsors	Website/ Contact Info
Dec 2-8	National Influenza Vaccine Week	CDC	www.cdc.gov/flu/NIVW/index.htm
Month of January 2013	Cervical Health Awareness Month	National Cervical Cancer Coalition	www.nccc-online.org
April 14-15, 2013 Los Angeles	California Immunization Coalition Summit	CIC	Save the date! Details TBA
June 3-6, 2013 Atlanta, GA	National Immunization Conference	CDC	www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/nic/default.htm

New Online Resources

Resource Title	Type of resource
Influenza Egg Allergy Guidance (CDC) [see article p 613, table p 617]	Guide
Guidance for Immigrant and Refugee Influenza Vaccination (CDC)	Web Page
Influenza: What You Should Know (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)	Fact Sheet
Interim Guidelines for Vaccine Storage and Handling: FAQs (CDC)	Guide
Vaccine Storage and Handling: Interim Guidance (CDC)	Guide
On-Demand Webinars	Source
Increasing Influenza Immunization for Health Care Workers: Barriers, Opportunities and Mandates	California Immunization Coalition
Twens, Teens and Vaccines: Can't Live with them, Can't Live without them	VicNetwork, National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC)
Current Issues in Vaccines	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
HPV Vaccine: a Shot of Cancer Prevention	Medscape (CEs available)
Screening, Management, Prevention and Prevalence of Chronic Hepatitis B (PPT slides)	Dr. Samuel So, STD Control Branch, CDPH