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Updates to VFA HPV Vaccine Policy

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TO: California Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Providers
FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., MSc., Chief 
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch
SUBJECT: Updates to VFA HPV Vaccine Policy

Dear VFA Provider,

In September 2019, [CDPH issued a letter](#) detailing updated federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [recommendations for Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) vaccination](#) and prioritization for the use of VFA doses of HPV vaccine.

The ACIP recommends catch-up HPV vaccination for all persons through age 26 years. **Please continue to prioritize usage of VFA doses of HPV vaccine to increase immunization rates in men and women through the age of 26 years.**

For adults aged 27 through 45 years who are not adequately vaccinated, clinicians can consider discussing HPV vaccination with persons who are most likely to benefit. **HPV vaccination does not need to be discussed with most adults over age 26.** [When considering HPV immunization for adults 27-45 years of age, please take into account the following factors to assist with your shared clinical decision-making:](#)

- At any age, having a new sex partner is a risk factor for acquiring a new HPV infection.
- Persons who are in a long-term, mutually monogamous sexual partnership are not likely to acquire a new HPV infection.
- Most sexually active adults have been exposed to some HPV types, although not necessarily all of the HPV types targeted by vaccination.
- HPV vaccine efficacy is high among persons who have not been exposed to vaccine-type HPV before vaccination.
- Vaccine effectiveness might be low among persons with risk factors for HPV infection or disease (e.g., adults with multiple lifetime sex partners and likely previous infection with vaccine-type HPV), as well as among persons with certain immunocompromising conditions.



- HPV vaccines are prophylactic (i.e., they prevent new HPV infections). They do not prevent progression of HPV infection to disease, decrease time to clearance of HPV infection, or treat HPV-related disease.

To better align the VFA program with ACIP recommendations, [VFA-eligible](#) adults ages 27 through 45 years who are determined to be at risk for new HPV infection through a shared clinical decision-making process may receive VFA doses of HPV vaccine.

Resources

- [2019 HPV Recommendations and VFA Prioritization Letter](#)
- [MMWR: Updated ACIP HPV Recommendations](#) (CDC)
- [VFA Program Eligibility Based on Insurance Status](#)
- [HPV Vaccine Fact Sheet](#)