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GAVIN NEWSOM
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TO: California Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Providers

FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., Immunization Branch Chief
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control

SUBJECT: **Updates to ACIP Adult Immunization Recommendations and VFA Vaccine Policy**

Dear VFA Provider,

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently released the updated [2022 Adult Immunization Schedule](#).

Key updates include:

- Expansion of hepatitis B vaccination recommendations to all adults 19-59 years
- Updated and simplified pneumococcal vaccination regimen recommendations
- Expansion of shingles vaccine recommendations to immunocompromised adults 19 years and older

Hepatitis B Vaccine Updates

ACIP now recommends hepatitis B vaccination for all adults 19-59 years regardless of risk factors. Hepatitis B vaccination continues to be recommended for adults 60 years and older who are at risk for hepatitis B infection, including people with chronic liver disease, HIV infection, sexual exposure risk, injection drug use, incarceration, or percutaneous or mucosal risk for exposure to blood.

On a related note, under [a new California law](#), as of January 1, 2022, **primary care providers in California are now required to offer screening tests to patients meeting United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) risk criteria:**

- [hepatitis C](#) – age 18-79 years.
- [hepatitis B](#) - born in [countries with prevalence of HBV infection ≥2%](#), and others at risk for infection, as listed above or [in CDC guidance. Most Californians reported with chronic hepatitis B infection have been born in Asia or Pacific Islands](#). The [CDC hepatitis B serology guide](#) has information about testing and interpretation.



Patients whose testing indicates hepatitis B or C infection should be referred for follow-up care with their primary care provider or a liver specialist. Those who test negative for hepatitis B and have not been previously vaccinated should be offered hepatitis B vaccination. More detailed information about the new law is available in a [CDPH letter from 3/22/22](#).

The 2022 Adult Immunization Schedule describes [hepatitis B vaccine options](#). VFA will continue to offer Engerix-B and HEPLISAV-B hepatitis B vaccines for eligible adults.

Pneumococcal Vaccination Updates

ACIP recommends newer pneumococcal vaccines, PCV20 and PCV15, instead of PCV13 and has simplified eligibility criteria for people 65 years and older and people 18-64 with certain **medical conditions or risk factors**. [A CDPH job aid updates these options](#), that include:

Vaccination Status	Option 1	Option 2
No prior history of pneumococcal vaccine or unknown vaccination history	PCV20	PCV15 followed by PPSV23 at least 1 year later. People with a history of immunocompromising conditions , cerebrospinal fluid leak, or cochlear implant may benefit from an 8 week interval.
Prior receipt of PPSV23 more than 1 year ago	PCV20	PCV15
Prior receipt of PCV13 more than 1 year ago	PPSV23	PCV20 (if PPSV23 not available)

Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) and Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPSV) Availability through VFA

PCV20 (Pevnar 20™, Pfizer): VFA is now offering 10-packs of single dose syringes of PCV20 during the quarterly ordering period closing on April 21, 2022.

PCV15 (Vaxneuvance™, Merck): VFA is not offering PCV15.

PCV13 (Pevnar 13™): VFA is no longer offering PCV13. It is removed from the 317 Order Form.

- Under special federal permission to avoid wastage, your remaining inventory of PCV13 from VFA may be used for VFC-eligible children at your clinics.
- As previously, under federal contractual requirements, **all other VFA vaccines besides PCV13 may only be used for adults.**
- Report any usage on pediatric populations and on-hand inventory of PCV13 with your Pediatric VFC PCV13 order. If you plan to use VFA PCV13 doses for VFC-eligible children, transfer your PCV13 doses from your VFA account to your VFC account as follows:
 - Add a note in the comment section of your VFC order listing the VFA PCV13 doses you would like to transfer.
 - Include the lot number(s), expiration date(s), and total amount of VFA PCV13 doses you would like to transfer in the on-hand inventory fields of your VFC order.

PPSV23 (Pneumovax®23): VFA is still offering limited doses of PPSV23 for adults who previously received PCV13.

Recombinant Zoster Vaccine Updates

ACIP recommends [recombinant zoster vaccine for adults 19 years and older who are immunocompromised](#). [VFA-eligible](#) adults ages 19 years and older who are immunocompromised may receive VFA doses of recombinant zoster vaccine.

Resources

- [2022 ACIP Adult Immunization Schedule](#)
- [MMWR: Updated Hepatitis B Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [MMWR: Updated Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [MMWR: Updated Recombinant Zoster Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [CDPH: CA Providers: Are you screening your patients for Hepatitis B?](#)
- [CDPH Pneumococcal Vaccine Timing Job Aid](#)
- [VFA Program Eligibility Based on Insurance Status](#)
- [VFA/VFC Vaccine Eligibility Guidelines Table](#)
- [317 Eligibility Screening Record for Adult Patients](#)
- [317 Adult Vaccine Physical Inventory Form](#)
- [317 Adult Vaccine Daily Usage Log](#)
- [317 Vaccine Receiving Log and Checklist](#)