Back-to-School Immunizations

The new school year is fast approaching and now is the time to get pediatric patients caught up on vaccinations! During the pandemic, many children missed routine checkups and immunizations. Children need to catch-up to meet school immunization requirements and to stay protected against vaccine-preventable diseases such as whooping cough and measles. And please offer your patients 12 and up the COVID-19 vaccine (or refer them for vaccination) if they haven’t already been vaccinated.

Strategies to Consider:

Use the immunization registry and your electronic health record system to identify children who missed well-child visits and/or recommended vaccinations.
Reach out to schedule in-person appointments using a Robocall Script or Letter.
Plan back-to-school immunization catch-up clinics at convenient times for working parents, including weekends.
Administer needed vaccines at all visits, not just well-child checks.
Use effective communication techniques. Talk openly with parents about vaccine safety and concerns. Educational materials should supplement, not replace, conversations. Personal accounts are persuasive and memorable; share the reasons why you support vaccines!

Resources:

- Immunization Requirements for Pre-K (Child Care)
- Immunization Requirements for K-12th Grade
- Guidance for Routine and Influenza Immunizations during COVID-19 (CDC)
- Recommended Child Immunization Schedule 2021 (CDC)
- Don’t Wait Vaccinate Campaign (CA Immunization Coalition)
- COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens Resources (CDC)
Thank you for keeping California healthy!