



## Monthly Immunization Update July 2018

Dear Providers,

This newsletter is meant to keep you up to date on issues related to vaccines quickly and easily. We welcome your questions and comments. Email us at [immunization.program@ventura.org](mailto:immunization.program@ventura.org)

**Immunization Requirements for School:** Visit [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org) to get up to date information on school entry requirements. Make sure vaccine records are up to date! Please review the following links.

[Guide to Immunization Requirements for School Entry](#)  
[No Shots? No Records? No School.](#)

**August is National Immunization Awareness Month:** Every year in August, National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of immunization and the need for improving national vaccination coverage levels.

CDC has provided suggestions to help providers promote vaccination during each week of NIAM. Visit <https://www.nphic.org/niam>

### **Take a Stand to End HPV Cancer by Vaccinating your Preteen Patients this Summer!**

As you may know, the human papillomavirus (HPV) causes six types of cancer and is a common infection. In fact, 9 out of 10 adults both men and women are infected with HPV at some point in their lives. Fortunately, we have a vaccine that will prevent this infection and many of the cancers it causes. In the United States, 6 out of 10 of girls and boys aged 13-17 have started the HPV vaccination series, but only 4 out of 10 of girls and boys are up to date on the full series.

### **What can you do to reach an HPV vaccination rate of 80%?**

1. **Vaccinate your patients at the recommended age of 11-12 years** as recommended by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.
2. **Know your HPV vaccination rates.** To achieve a goal of 80%, it helps to know your starting point: your practice's current rates.
3. **Recommend HPV vaccine the same day and the same way** you recommend all other vaccines. For example, "I see here that Luis just turned 11. Because he's 11, Luis is due for meningitis, HPV, and Tdap vaccines. We'll give those at the end of today's visit."
4. **Engage everyone in your office.** Ensure that each team member, from front desk to medical assistant, is aware of the importance of HPV vaccine, educated on proper vaccination practices and recommendations, and ready to answer parents' questions.
5. **Implement systems to ensure you never miss an opportunity.** Create a system to check immunization status ahead of all visits. Schedule appointments for the next dose the same day as the first. Utilize reminder/recall systems. (The ACS National HPV Vaccination [Roundtable has helpful action guides.](#))

The California Department of Public Health has resources to help you educate parents of your adolescent patients. Order resources for free from [your local health department](#).

- [How Important is HPV Vaccine for Preteens and Teens flyer](#) | [Spanish](#)

**VFC PROVIDERS:**

**2017-2018 Influenza Vaccine Update:**

As we wrap-up this past flu season, and begin to gear up for the 2018-2019 season, please make sure your practice has removed any remaining flu doses from your fridge.

- Most 2017-2018 flu products have either expired or are soon to expire at the end of June. So, if you have expired doses on-hand, remove them from your storage unit immediately, and complete and submit a VFC Return Form by logging into your MyVFCvaccines account.
- Doses shipped back to McKesson must match doses reported in your electronic Return Form. So please, do not include expired private vaccine doses, or any broken vials or syringes, or open multi-dose vials you included on the Return Form.
- Each return shipping label requested in the [Return Form](#) is associated with that specific Return ID. Therefore, ONLY ship doses listed in the corresponding Return ID/Form.
- Return shipping labels are only valid for 30 days; ensure expired flu doses are returned to McKesson as soon as possible.

#### **Vaccine Tips:**

It's summer...and it's getting hot. Is your clinic ready? Summer brings more power outages. As the heat rises, we put more demand on the power grid. Power outages can pose risks for vaccines.

**Be prepared in case your clinic loses power. Review – and update if necessary – your clinic's Vaccine Management Plan. Know what to do before you lose power.**

Keep in mind that all VFC communications are always posted on VFC's website, [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org)

You can also view this information on <http://www.vchca.org/immunization-program>

or follow us on:



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