

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

Stay up to date on the latest coronavirus information for Ventura county:

County of Ventura www.vcemergency.com

Vaccines Are Essential: Register for an Afternoon Teach with VFC

Presenting Vaccines are essential: Guidance for Immunizing.

Tuesday June 30th, 2020

12:00 PM – 1:00pm

Registration link: [REGISTER HERE](#)

Standards for Adult Immunization Practice

Some clinics in the county offer VFA (Vaccine for Adults) at no cost or low cost for those who qualify. You can contact the immunization program @ 805-981-5211 for a list of clinics.

Why should adult immunization be a priority for your practice?

1. **Your patients are probably not getting the vaccines they need.** Even though most private insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines, adult vaccination rates in the United States are extremely low. Each year, tens of thousands of adults needlessly suffer, are hospitalized, and even die because of diseases that could be prevented by vaccines.
2. **Your patients are likely not aware that they need vaccines.** Although adults do believe immunization is important, many don't know which vaccines are recommended for them throughout their lives. Many also report not receiving vaccine recommendations from their healthcare professional.
3. **You play a critical role in ensuring that your patients are fully immunized.** Clinicians are the most valued and trusted source of health information for adults. Your patients rely on you to inform them about the vaccines they need. Research shows that a recommendation from their healthcare professional is the top predictor of patients getting vaccinated.

CDC publishes "Decline in Child Immunization Coverage during the COVID-19 Pandemic—Michigan Care Improvement Registry, May 2016–May 2020" in *MMWR*

CDC published Decline in Child Vaccination Coverage during the COVID-19 Pandemic—Michigan Care Improvement Registry, May 2016–May 2020 in the May 22 issue of *MMWR*. The researchers compared vaccination rates in children at ages 1, 3, 5, 7, 16, 19, and 24 months in May 2020 with the average of 2016–2019 May vaccine coverage estimates. Vaccine coverage declined in each of the age cohorts, except for birth-dose HepB coverage, which is typically given in the hospital. Vaccination rates in Michigan for some diseases fell below 50%.

VFC PROVIDERS:

Continuing vaccination during COVID-19 pandemic:

AAP and CDC recommend that childhood immunizations continue to be prioritized during the COVID-19 pandemic. But parents may be reluctant to bring their children in during the pandemic. To help reassure them, you may use the following messages, adapting them as needed to how your clinic is operating:

1. Emphasize steps your practice is taking to keep patients and clinic staff safe.

- “We are taking several precautions to help keep our patients safe, including scheduling baby shot visits in the morning and only seeing sick children in the afternoon.”

- "We're screening everyone who comes into the office, including taking everyone's temperature."
- "We disinfect our clinic twice daily and exam rooms after each visit."
- "We have designated areas of our offices to separate sick patients from healthy patients."
- "We all wear masks at all times."
- "We're scheduling appointments so only one patient is at the clinic at a given time."

2. Consider alternate ways to deliver care.

- "We can schedule a telehealth appointment, where I address your questions and concerns on your phone or computer, followed by a brief immunization visit to help keep your baby safe."
- "Our clinic is offering 'drive-thru' immunizations, so you don't even have to come inside the clinic!"

3. Reinforce the fact that vaccine-preventable diseases will continue to be a threat to the child.

- "As a parent, I would not wait to immunize my baby; as your doctor, I am strongly recommending we help protect your baby from diseases that could cause harm during or after the pandemic."

4. Inform them that getting caught up later may not be so easy.

- "When California 'reopens,' there may be many children who need to catch up on immunizations, increasing wait times for appointments. While waiting they could be exposed to dangerous vaccine-preventable diseases circulating in the community. Let us avoid that danger by keeping your child on track."

We cannot thank you enough for serving our communities and protecting children during this difficult time. To help your vital work, we encourage you to check out CDC's NIIW tools and resources and our On-demand webinar on guidance for immunizations during the pandemic.

Thank you again for all that you do!

*Keep in mind that all VFC communications are always posted on VFC's website, www.eziz.org
You can also view this information on <http://www.vhca.org/immunization-program>*

or follow us on:



Ventura County Public Health Immunization Program

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