

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

Is your practice ready for flu season

Make sure your practice is ready to both vaccinate and communicate the importance of flu vaccination.

- **Flu VISs are no longer updated every year. The edition dated 8/7/2015 should be used for the 2018-19 flu season.**
- Refer to the latest [influenza vaccine recommendations from the ACIP](#).
- Use CDPH's [2018-2019 Flu Vaccine Identification Guide](#) to distinguish among products.
- Strongly recommend flu vaccine to all your patients age six months and older. The strongest predictor of getting vaccinated is a provider's recommendation.
- [Ventura County Health Officer Masking Order](#).
- Ventura County Flu Clinics Schedule.

Click here  to view the 2018-19 Flu Clinics Schedule.

CDC publishes report on vaccination rates among children age 19–35 months of age in 2017

CDC published [Vaccination Coverage Among Children Aged 19–35 Months—United States, 2017](#) in the October 12 issue of MMWR (pages 1123–1128). The first paragraph is reprinted below.

CDC reports on barriers to Tdap receipt among mothers of infants with pertussis

CDC published Barriers to Receipt of Prenatal Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap) Among Mothers of Infants Aged <4 Months with Pertussis—California, 2016 in the September 28 issue of [MMWR \(pages 1068–1071\)](#).

[CDC reports on vaccination coverage of kindergarten students during 2017–18 in MMWR](#)

CDC published Vaccination Coverage for Selected Vaccines and Exemption Rates Among Children in Kindergarten—United States, 2017–18 School Year in the October 12 issue of MMWR (pages 1115–1122)

CDC releases updated VIS for hepatitis B vaccine

On October 12, CDC released a revised Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for hepatitis B vaccine. The Hepatitis B VIS has received a minor update, noting that a 2-dose series is available. Stocks of the existing (7/20/16) edition may be used up before switching to this updated edition.

- [Hepatitis B Vaccine VIS](#)

Related Links

- IAC's [Hepatitis B VIS](#) web page with links to many translations that will soon be updated
- Visit IAC's [VIS web section](#) for VISs in [more than 35 languages](#)
- CDC's [What New with VISs](#) web page

CDC issues clinical guidance for providers during the Shingrix vaccine shortage

In light of the current shortage of recombinant zoster vaccine (Shingrix; GSK), CDC has prepared a statement for healthcare providers reminding them about considerations and the importance of the 2nd dose.

There are currently ordering limits and intermittent shipping delays for GlaxoSmithKline's Shingrix vaccine (recombinant zoster vaccine) due to high demand. Until demand can be met, it is particularly important that vaccine providers educate patients about the importance of completing the series. In addition, CDC reminds healthcare professionals of proven strategies to help patients receive all their needed vaccinations on time, including Shingrix:

- Give first consideration to patients due for their second dose of Shingrix (<https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/vaccination-programs-client-reminder-and-recall-systems>).
- If you are out of Shingrix and a patient needs a second dose, refer the patient to another provider in the community (e.g., a pharmacy) that has Shingrix so the patient can complete the series. (<https://vaccinefinder.org>).
- As supply becomes less constrained, be sure to notify eligible patients so they can come in to get their first dose of Shingrix.

Timely series completion is key to the success of any vaccination program and critical to ensuring patients receive the full benefit of their vaccinations.

VFC PROVIDERS:

Vaccine tips

Vaccinate your VFC patients with the flu vaccine you receive from VFC.

Do NOT miss an opportunity to protect them against flu. Do NOT postpone vaccination because of brand preference. Most California VFC providers will receive mainly Fluarix® and FluLaval® for the 2018-2019 season. VFC is NOT supplying FluMist® this year.

Both Fluarix® and FluLaval® are licensed for patients 6 months of age and older. Therefore, both are good choices for VFC-eligible patients. Both Fluarix® and FluLaval® come as 0.5mL pre-filled syringes. Same dosage volume for all your patients 6 months and older.

***Always administer the complete dose, i.e. the entire syringe. ***

Preservative-free vaccines should be prioritized for administration to pregnant teens under 18 years of age but may also be used in children 3-18 years of age. According to the Health and Safety Code Section 124172, pregnant women or children younger than three years old may only receive vaccine doses that contain trace levels or no mercury. + Flucelvax® may not be used in patients younger than 4 years of age.

2018-2019 Supplemental Influenza Vaccine Ordering

California's Vaccines for Children (VFC) Supplemental Ordering system for 2018-2019 influenza vaccine is now available through [MyVFCVaccines](#) and will remain open as long as supplies remain.

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.vchca.org/immunization-program>

or follow us on:



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