

Dear Providers,

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

### **Vaccines and Immunizations**

Immunization is one of the greatest medical successes in human history. Immunizations have saved millions of lives over the past century.

Children need immunizations (shots) to protect them from certain dangerous childhood diseases. And now, increasingly, vaccines are available to help people of all ages from catching and spreading serious diseases like flu, meningitis, and whooping cough. Getting immunized helps our communities stay healthier. That's because diseases spread more easily from person to person among people who haven't gotten their shots.

Many diseases that have been eliminated in the United States are still common in other parts of the world. That means that dangerous diseases like polio and measles are potentially just a plane flight away. A 2006 outbreak of mumps in the Midwest shows how easy it is for these diseases to spread.

Infants and young children are at the highest risk from these diseases. Immunizations help your child's immune system to become stronger to fight off these diseases. Each time a child receives an immunization, their immune system becomes stronger.

### **April 22-29 is National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)**

- NIIW is an annual observance. We celebrate it as part of World Immunization Week.
- NIIW is a time to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- VFC providers play a critical role in protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Continue to make sure all the babies and toddlers in your practice are up-to-date.
- Check every patient's record at every visit. And remind parents when their child's next immunizations are due.

### **CDC publishes ACIP recommendations titled "General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization" to replace "General Recommendations on Immunization"**

On April 20, CDC published [General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization Best Practices: Guidance of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#). This guidance is also available as a [194-page PDF document](#). This document replaces ACIP's "General Recommendations on Immunization," published in 2011.

The "General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization" goes beyond vaccination recommendations to give providers guidelines on vaccination practice. The document will help vaccination providers to assess vaccine benefits and risks, use recommended administration practices, understand the most effective strategies for ensuring that vaccination coverage in the population remains high, and communicate the importance of vaccination to reduce the effects of vaccine-preventable disease.

By releasing "General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization" as an online report, ACIP will be able to update the document more quickly, giving vaccination providers the most up-to-date guidance on vaccination practice.

The updated guidelines include:

1. Confirmation that if a patient is not acutely, moderately, or severely ill, vaccination during hospitalization is a best practice.
2. New information on simultaneous vaccination and febrile seizures.
3. Enhancement of the definition of "precaution" to include any condition that might confuse diagnostic accuracy.
4. More descriptive characterization of anaphylactic allergy.
5. Incorporation of protocols for management of anaphylactic allergy.
6. Allowances for alternate route (subcutaneous instead of intramuscular) for hepatitis A vaccination.
7. An age cutoff of 12 years through 17 years for validating a dose of intradermal influenza vaccine.
8. Deletion of much of the storage and handling content, including information on storage units, temperature monitoring, and expiration dates (this content is now contained and continually updated in CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/index.html>).
9. Incorporation of the Infectious Diseases Society of America guidance on vaccination of persons with altered immunocompetence.
10. Timing of intramuscular administration in patients with bleeding disorders.
11. Updated data on vaccination record policy.
12. Additional impacts of the Affordable Care Act on adult vaccination.
13. Updated programmatic contact information on source material for vaccine information.

Continuing education (CE) credit is available for reading "General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization."

Vaccination providers, immunization managers, and anyone interested in updates to "General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization" may sign up to receive e-mail notifications whenever new information is released. Submit your email address in the appropriate box in the left column [here](#).

[Access General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization](#) on CDC's website as an HTML document.

[Download General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization](#) as a PDF document (194 pages).

#### **NEW IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES AND FOOTNOTES**

The [2017 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years](#) has been approved by ACIP, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. A summary of the updates to the 2017 immunization schedule was published in the [MMWR](#) on February 5, 2016, and the figures, footnotes, and tables are posted [on the CDC website](#). For each vaccine, the footnotes summarize the current recommendations for routine and catch-up immunizations and recommendations for high-risk persons. In keeping with your VFC provider agreement, providers should follow the [recommended 2017 ACIP immunization schedule](#). We encourage providers to review the 2016 immunization schedule, complete footnotes, and catch-up schedule together with all staff, especially those who order and administer vaccines. We recommend that the 2016 schedules, including footnotes, be posted for reference in the office. VFC providers may order print copies of the 2016 ACIP Immunization Schedule through [VFC's Material Store](#).

**Immunization Requirements for school:** Visit [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org) to get up to date information on school entry requirements.

**VFC PROVIDERS:**

Did you know an average refrigerator and freezer can contain more than \$100,000 of vaccines? Protect your vaccines. Vaccines stored improperly will not protect your patients.

Maintain proper temperature ranges.

- Refrigerate between- 35.0oF and 46.0oF (2.0°C and 8.0°C)
- Freeze between -58°F and 5.0°F (-50.0°C and -15.0°C)

Use a VFC-compliant temperature monitoring device. (Starting in 2017, all VFC providers will need to use a data logger to record temps.)

Record CURRENT, MIN and MAX temps twice a day on a VFC Program temp log, even if you use a data logger.

**Vaccine Inventory:** Make sure you have adequate vaccine inventory in your refrigerators to be ready for School enrollments.

Although vaccines may sometimes arrive within a few days of submitting your request, VFC recommends that you place your vaccine request with sufficient doses on hand to allow up to 3 weeks for the receipt of your vaccine shipment. In the event that your shipment takes the full 3 weeks to arrive, you will not run out of inventory while you wait for your shipment.

Email [immunization.program@ventura.org](mailto:immunization.program@ventura.org) for information and registration.

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/for-health-care-providers-cmr-tb-forms> or follow



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