

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

Pertussis: Pertussis is present in Ventura County. In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, pertussis should be considered in a patient with a cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks with at least one of the following: paroxysm of coughing or inspiratory “whoop”, or post-tussive vomiting, or apnea in infants < 1 year of age. Culture for pertussis continues to be the gold standard. PCR testing offers timely diagnostic results. Only patients with signs and symptoms consistent with pertussis should be tested by PCR. PCR testing has optimal sensitivity during the first 3 weeks of cough. After the fourth week of cough, the amount of bacterial DNA rapidly diminishes which increases the risk of obtaining falsely-negative results. PCR specimens should be obtained by aspiration or swabbing the posterior nasopharynx. Swab tips may be polyester, rayon, or nylon-flocked.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/pertussis.aspx#>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/pert.html>

Due to the rising concern about hepatitis A, Public Health has been quick to respond by:

- Investigating possible cases of hepatitis A infection in our communities.
- Notifying medical providers to increase awareness and detection of hepatitis A infection.
- Reaching out to homeless service providers to increase awareness and provide hepatitis A vaccination.

Hepatitis A:

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus. Mild cases can last a few weeks while severe cases can last several months.

The majority of hepatitis A cases are occurring in individuals who are homeless and/or use illicit drugs. Outbreaks of hepatitis A in persons who are homeless and/or use illicit drugs are occurring in San Diego, LA and Santa Cruz counties.

Anyone can get hepatitis A, but you are at-risk if you:

- Are homeless and/or use illicit drugs
- Live with someone who has hepatitis A
- Use recreational drugs
- Are a man who has sex with men
- Have sexual contact with someone who has hepatitis
- Travel or live in countries where hepatitis A is common

Hepatitis A can be spread by:

- Touching objects or eating food that someone with hepatitis A infection has handled
- Having sex with someone who has a hepatitis A infection
- Consuming food or drinks that are contaminated by the virus
- Sharing needles, pipes or other items when using drugs
- Forgetting to wash your hands after cleaning up the stool or changing the diaper of an infected person

How to Prevent Hepatitis A Infection

The best way to prevent hepatitis A is by getting vaccinated

- The hepatitis A vaccine is given as 2 shots, 6 months apart
- The vaccine is safe and effective
- Even a single dose is highly effective in adults
- If you cannot remember if you got the hepatitis A vaccine, there is no harm in getting it again
- Visit your doctor’s office, a [pharmacy](#), or call 2-1-1 to find a local clinic or doctor

Find a [pharmacy](#) in your area that may offer hepatitis A and other vaccinations. Call ahead to confirm that the pharmacy offers hepatitis A vaccinations and ask about hours, insurance coverage, and any charges.

You can also prevent the spread of hepatitis A by washing hands with soap and water scrubbing vigorously for 20 seconds:

- Before eating or preparing food
- After using the bathroom or changing diapers

How can I clean areas that may be contaminated with Hepatitis A

- Use 10% bleach solution (1-part bleach to 9 parts water)

College Students Potentially Exposed to *Neisseria meningitidis* -- Oregon, 2017

Many Students will travel to other states for Winter Break, December 9- January 7:

Five laboratory-confirmed cases of invasive *Neisseria meningitidis* infection have been reported among students at Oregon State University (OSU).

Five Oregon State University (OSU) students have developed invasive meningococcal disease since November, 2016, including two in the past 6 weeks. Four have confirmed serogroup B infection; serogroup is pending on the final case. Isolates were obtained on culture in 3 cases and these match by molecular sub-typing. Contacts have received antimicrobial prophylaxis.

Keep in mind that vaccination against serogroup B meningococcus is recommended for all incoming and current OSU undergraduate students aged 25 and under. If you are contacted about vaccination of OSU students by their hometown providers, Bexsero® is the vaccine being used in mass vaccination efforts. If you are a local health department that offers vaccination services and an OSU student comes in, please get them vaccinated.

Hepatitis B Vaccine at Birth:

Policies and Procedures for Prenatal Care and Delivery Hospitals

Prenatal Care

[Prenatal Care Provider Policies and Procedures\[PDF – 1 page\]](#)

[Algorithm Illustrating Prenatal Care Provider Testing Procedures\[PDF – 1 page\]](#)

Delivery Hospitals

Algorithms illustrating delivery hospital procedures to prevent perinatal HBV transmission when maternal HBsAg test results are [available\[PDF – 1 page\]](#) and [unavailable\[PDF – 1 page\]](#)

[Guidelines for Standing Orders in Labor & Delivery & Nursery Units to Prevent Hepatitis B Virus \(HBV\) Transmission to Newborns\[PDF – 2 pages\]](#)

[Updated! CDC/AAP/AAFP/ACOG Now recommend HepB Birth Dose withing 24 Hours of Birth for Low-Risk, Normal-Weight Newborns](#) (previously HepB was recommended “before hospital discharge” for these infants.) “Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Age 18 Years or Younger, U.S., 2017” CDC/AAP/ACIP/ACOG) See Footnote 1. (2/10/17)

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine each year. Vaccines are especially important for people who are at high risk for complications from flu, and for people who live with or care for someone who is at high risk. For a successful Influenza vaccination season discuss and outline key strategies to achieve high influenza vaccination coverage rates of your patients and decrease missed opportunities for vaccination. These strategies may include:

1. reminding patients to come in for their annual influenza vaccination,
2. expanding hours for influenza vaccination,
3. allowing influenza vaccine-only visits, and
4. discussing mechanisms to track patients who will be due to return to the practice for a second dose.

For a community clinic near you visit our website @ <http://www.vchca.org/ph>

All adults need vaccines to protect their health against common diseases that can be serious. There are four things to consider in determining which vaccines are recommended for you:

1. Vaccines every adult need
2. Your age

3. Your health conditions, lifestyle, or job
4. International travel

Linking to CDC's <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-schedule-easy-read.pdf>

Information for VFC Providers:

National Influenza Vaccination Week. Be a flu fighter!

- Make sure your patients 6 months and older are protected from flu.
- Some children younger than 9 years of age need two doses. Recall your patients who need their 2nd dose.

It's not too late to give flu shots.

***VFC providers who need more flu doses can submit a supplemental flu order. ***

VFC Providers Reminder!

Digital Data Loggers (DDLs) are required for continued VFC participation in 2018.

If your practice is still using traditional thermometers to monitor vaccine temps, **it's time to transition to DDLs**. Visit the [Digital Data Logger page](#) on EZIZ.org for product specifications, purchasing considerations, and a list of manufacturers.

EVERY TIME you place a vaccine order, review your practice's delivery days and times.

Deliveries are made according information reflected in your "[MYVFCVaccines](#)" account. If your practice will be on vacation or unable to receive shipments, please contact the VFC Customer Service Center as soon as possible. Undeliverable shipments due to incorrect shipping hours lead to delivery delays, can result in vaccine damage, and may even lead to a negligent vaccine loss. Your practice may be held financially accountable. All staff working with immunizations should be knowledgeable about proper procedures for receiving, inspecting, and storing vaccines.

2017-2018 Influenza Vaccine Supply Update: For information on Vaccine Supply updates and Supplemental ordering visit. [Supplemental order](#)

2018 EZIZ Lessons and VFC Recertification will be available in Late January 2018!

Recertification is a federal requirement for VFC Providers to maintain active status in the VFC Program and to continue receiving publicly-purchased vaccines. As the first step of Recertification, key practice staff must complete VFC's 2018 educational requirements through the EZIZ lessons, which will be ready at the same time the Recertification form is launched next year.

You will **NOT** get credit for 2018 Recertification if you take the lessons before Recertification is available. Please look out for a communication from the VFC Program letting you know when you may begin taking the lessons and completing the Recertification form. If you have questions, call VFC customer services representative at (877)243-8832 Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm or visit the website at EZIZ.org

You can also view this information on <http://vchca.org/public-health/for-health-care-providers> or follow us on:



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