

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

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. It's a great time to learn more about cervical cancer and ways to prevent this disease from affecting family and friends.

What Is Cervical Cancer?

- Cervical cancer is a disease caused by the uncontrolled growth of cells that line the cervix. The cervix is the lower part of the uterus that connects the uterus to the vaginal canal. Worldwide, cervical cancer is the 3rd most common cancer among women and the 2nd most frequent cause of cancer-related death. Fortunately, the availability of screening tests such as the Pap test have greatly reduced cases of cervical cancer in the U.S. In addition, several vaccines are available that can prevent the human papilloma virus (HPV) types that cause most cervical cancers.
- Today, approximately 12,000 women in the U.S. get cervical cancer each year, and 4,000 women die from it. Compared to all women, Latina women are more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer, while African American/Black women are more likely to die from it. These health disparities are largely the result of unequal access to healthcare, which leads to lower cervical cancer screening rates and delayed treatment if abnormal cell growth or cancer is identified. Some real-life stories from women and their families impacted by cervical cancer and HPV are available at this [link](#).

Influenza is spreading and serious; please keep vaccinating your patients

- Influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone six months of age and older. If you don't provide influenza vaccination in your clinic, please recommend vaccination to your patients and refer them to a clinic or pharmacy that provides vaccines or to the [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) to locate sites near their workplaces or homes that offer influenza vaccination services.
- Many weeks of flu activity are likely still ahead of us, therefore it is important to ensure that patients 6 months and older in your practice who have not yet received their annual influenza vaccine, and children who may need their second dose, are vaccinated. It takes about two weeks after vaccination to develop protection. So vaccination even now, after the holiday break, still offers protection against flu viruses.
- Some children aged 6 months of age through 8 years of age may require two doses of influenza vaccine for full protection. For these children, a single dose of vaccine may offer only reduced protection or no protection at all.
- Visit the updated [Disease and Vaccines web section](#) and bookmark this section for easy future reference. You can easily locate the Diseases and Vaccines web section by going to IAC's home page, www.immunize.org, and clicking on the fourth navigation tab across the top of the page.

Vaccine Supply Update

Pentacel® (DTaP-IPV/Hib): Sanofi has notified the VFC Program that the Pentacel® shortage has been resolved. As a result, we have removed restrictions on the number of Pentacel® doses VFC Providers may request. Approval of requests will still be based on reported usage and inventory for Pentacel® and other VFC vaccines.

- Providers who switched to Pediarix® during the Pentacel® shortage should remain with the same combination vaccine to avoid vaccine administration errors.

Td Vaccine: Sanofi Tenivac® (Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids Adsorbed [Td]) vaccine is expected to become temporarily unavailable until the second half of 2017.

- Once VFC supplies of Tenivac® are depleted, the California VFC program will fill orders with Grifols' Td vaccine.

More information please reference:

[TENIVAC® SUPPLY ISSUES AND NEW Td \(TETANUS AND DIPHTHERIA TOXOIDS-ADSORBED\), GRIFOLS, OPTION](#)

Hiberix: Since January 2016, Hiberix™ (GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals [GSK]) has been licensed for the primary Hib vaccination series at 2, 4, and 6 months of age, in addition to its previous indication for the booster dose at 15 through 18 months.

- More information about the use of Hiberix™ as primary or booster VFC doses will be sent to VFC Providers in a separate communication.

Join us by celebrating Preteen Vaccine Week: February 12-18, 2017:

The goal of 2017's Preteen Vaccine Week campaign is raise awareness about California's Tdap requirement for incoming 7th grade students, immunization recommendations for 11-and 12-year-olds, and promote the preteen doctor visit through multiple avenues such as schools, providers, and the media

ACIP currently recommends that 11- and 12-year-olds receive these vaccines:

- **Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough):** All students entering 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school.
- **HPV (human papillomavirus):** Boys and girls need 3 shots for full protection.
- **Meningococcal:** Preteens need one shot now and a booster at age 16.
- **Influenza (flu):** Flu vaccine is needed every year!

To VFC Providers:

2017 VFC RECERTIFICATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 27

- This is an important reminder that 2017 VFC Recertification is due on Friday, January 27, 2017. All VFC providers must complete the recertification process in order to continue participation in the program and receive publicly funded vaccines.
- If your clinic has not yet completed this process, login to your [MyVFCvaccines](#) account to access and submit your clinic's 2017 Recertification Form. Details on the 2017 Recertification process can be found in the December 21, 2016 communication sent to VFC Providers and posted on [eziz.org](#): [Recertification letter](#)

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://vchca.org/public-health/for-health-care-providers> or follow us on:



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