

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](mailto:immunization.program@ventura.org)

**NIIW: A Campaign for Infant and Toddler Month:** Please join us in celebrating **National Infant Immunization Week, April 22 - 29, 2017** and Toddler Immunization Month in May.

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities. Since 1994, hundreds of communities across the United States have joined together to celebrate the critical role vaccination plays in protecting our children, communities, and public health.

NIIW 2017 will be celebrated as part of World Immunization Week (WIW), an initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO). During WIW, all six WHO regions, including more than 180 Member States, territories, and areas, will simultaneously promote immunization, advance equity in the use of vaccines and universal access to vaccination services, and enable cooperation on cross-border immunization activities.

The [Shots for School website](#) now features a look-up tool that will aid in identifying [child care centers](#) with low immunization rates. Search by zip code or facility/school name to view immunization rates in your area.

Providers should also review Toolkits and information provided by CDC @ <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/overview.html>

**Ask the Experts: CDC Experts Answer your Questions:** As it pertains to ACIP Updated Recommendations for HPV, Tdap, MenB, and Hep B Vaccines. <http://www.immunize.org/nslt.d/n69/n69.pdf> Recommendations, schedules, and more. <http://www.immunize.org/nslt.d/n69/n69.pdf>

**To VFC Providers:** In order to prevent delays with the delivery of your vaccine shipments, VFC requests that prior to submitting a vaccine order, your clinic's vaccine delivery days and hours on your "MYVFCVaccines" page is verified to make sure they are accurate. Shipments delivered according to outdated delivery information not only increases shipping costs due to multiple delivery attempts, but may result in a negligent vaccine loss for the practice.

**Vaccine Safety: REMINDER:** You must inspect every vaccine shipment!

1. Inspect the package for damage.
2. Open it immediately and verify vaccines were shipped within the correct temperature range. Check the monitor (for refrigerated vaccines) or shipping date (for frozen vaccines).
3. Check the packing slip to verify you received what you ordered.
4. Store the vaccines properly.

Use the [Vaccine Receiving Log and Checklist](#) to guide you. If you have any concerns, call the VFC Customer Service Immediately.

Keep vaccine storage equipment, including thermometers, running smoothly by changing your batteries?

**VFC Eligibility Reminder:**

To be eligible for VFC vaccines, children must be 18 years of age or younger and meet one of these criteria:

- Be eligible for Medi-Cal or CHDP or
- Have no health insurance coverage or
- Be American Indian or Alaskan Native

Screen every patient at every visit. Document their eligibility in a VFC-compliant record keeping system.

**FLU VACCINES EXPIRE ON DIFFERENT DATES:** Double check the expiration dates of all the flu vaccine in your practice. Always remove expired vaccine from the refrigerator. Report expired vaccines through MyVFCVaccines. Remember, call your VFC Rep if you have short dated vaccine or have questions.

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



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