

# Monthly Immunization Update

March 2023

Dear Ventura County Schools and Partners,

This newsletter is meant to keep you updated on issues related to vaccines quickly and easily and maintain our connection with all of you. We welcome your questions and comments. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Thank you!

## *Vaccines Safety: Answers to Parents' Top Questions*



As a parent, you want to make the best decisions to protect your child—staying informed will help. Your questions are important, and you deserve reliable information to support your decisions. If you want to learn more, ask your doctor for a “consultation visit,” or visit the EZIZ webpage at [eziz.org/resources/parented/studies](https://eziz.org/resources/parented/studies). Some common questions are:

1. **Are Vaccines safe?** Yes. Vaccines are very safe. In fact, experts including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Academy of Medicine, and the World Health Organization agree that vaccines are safe. Millions of children and adults are vaccinated every year—safely.
2. **What about getting shots later or spreading them out?** Skipping or delaying shots leaves your child at risk of catching serious diseases at younger ages—when these diseases are most dangerous. That’s why most doctors follow the CDC’s recommended immunization schedule, which is based on independent medical science review and updated each year

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You can access these answers and more, at the [EZIZ website](https://eziz.org). The hand out can be printed for your parents in [English](#) or in [Spanish](#).

## *School and Child Care Roster Lookup*

With more schools enrolling in the School and Child Care Roster Lookup (SCRL) tool, we will see an improved experience in use. An announcement was sent out by the state stating CAIR2 access removal for school users has been postponed till **April 1st**, pending enhancements in the application. The state does plan on hosting webinars and office hours for schools and childcare sites to take place in the Spring.



## *Achieving Equity in Childhood Vaccination*

Some children are at greater risk for COVID-19 and may face additional barriers in getting vaccinated. Some of these barriers include children who are unable to visit a pediatrician often because they are experiencing homelessness or lack of access. Children who are non-English speakers, immigrants, or with undocumented status may experience cultural barriers. There are also children who have historical disadvantages when it comes to health such as those in racial and ethnic minority groups or households with lower incomes. What communities can do to improve equity in childhood vaccination is partner with community providers to administer COVID-19 vaccines and boosters to children. Pediatricians are often the ones who vaccinate children, and many do this through the federally funded Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. However, pediatricians are not the only providers who can vaccinate and boost children. In many areas, pharmacies and community clinics-such as [Federally Qualified Health Centers \(FQHCs\)](#), rural health clinics, and community health centers, they also administer vaccines and boosters to children, and some of these are also VFC providers. Many schools and school districts partner with health departments, pharmacies and other healthcare providers to hold School Located Vaccine Clinics (SLVs) to vaccinate children and families of school children who may not otherwise have access. Community organizations, including faith-based organizations, can serve as an informational resource to help families find community-based vaccination locations. Our best method to improve vaccine equity is being informed and sharing accurate information to our communities. For more information on barriers to equity to childhood vaccination visit the CDC's webpage on [Vaccines & Immunizations](#).



### **Announcements:**

- Ventura County Public Health's Immunization program is hosting free Tdap immunization events for students entering the 7th grade in the 2023-2024 school year. Tdap is a required vaccine needed to go into the 7th grade. Details of the events are as follows:
  - \* April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at EO Green Junior High, in Oxnard, from 2:30 pm - 6pm
  - \* April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at Isbell Middle School, in Santa Paula, from 9:00 am - 12pm.

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We are on the web!

<https://vchca.org/immunization-program>

or follow us on



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