



Monthly Immunization Update April 2020

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

Ventura County Public Health is closely monitoring the coronavirus outbreak and is in close contact with state (CDPH) and federal (CDC) health authorities. For more information for the public and healthcare providers on coronavirus, please visit www.vcemergency.com for local updates, the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](http://www.cdph.ca.gov) for State updates, and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov) for national updates



National Public Health Week NPHW @ 25: Looking Back, Moving Forward.

April 6 - 12, 2020

National Public Health Week 2019: Changing Our Future Together

National Public Health Week (NPHW), Everyone deserves to live a long and healthy life in a safe environment. To make that possible, we need to address the causes of poor health and disease risk among individuals and within our communities. Where we live, learn, work, worship and play affects each of us and can determine our health and life expectancy. In the workplace, let's partner across public and private sectors to make sure decisions are made with the public's health in mind. Within our communities, let's start new conversations with our neighbors and become advocates for positive change. Working together, we can build healthier communities and eventually, the healthiest nation. But we need your help to get there.

During each day of National Public Health Week, we focus on a particular public health topic. Then, we identify ways each of us can make a difference on that topic. These areas are critical to our future success in creating the healthiest nation, and everyone can do their part to help.

NPHW 2020 DAILY THEMES

COVID-19 and the NPHW Daily Themes

Monday: Mental Health — advocate for and promote emotional well-being

Tuesday: Maternal and Child Health — ensure the health of mothers and babies throughout the lifespan

Wednesday: Violence Prevention — reduce personal and community violence to improve health

Thursday: Environmental Health — help protect and maintain a healthy planet

Friday: Education — advocate for quality education and schools

Saturday: Healthy Housing — ensure access to affordable and safe housing

Sunday: Economics — advocate for economic empowerment as the key to a healthy life

Practices(ACIP)currently recommends that 11 and 12-year old's receive Tdap, meningococcal vaccine, two

VFC Providers:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect communities across the United States. Maintaining childhood immunizations during this period may not be feasible due to current impact of COVID-19 community transmission, staffing, and parental concerns. However, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued the following recommendations for prioritizing childhood immunizations during this pandemic period, and strategies which can be implemented across pediatric practices to slow the spread of disease.

PRIORITIZING IMMUNIZATIONS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Because of personal, practice, or community circumstances related to COVID-19, some providers may not be able to provide well child visits, including provision of immunizations, for all patients in their practice.

- If a practice can provide only limited well child visits, healthcare providers are encouraged to **prioritize newborn care and vaccination of infants and young children (through 24 months of age) when possible.**
- Reschedule well visits for those in middle childhood and adolescence to a later date. Keep a list of rescheduled appointments to facilitate patient recall later on.

STRATEGIES TO MODIFY CLINIC STRUCTURE FOR ENSURING DELIVERY OF PRIORITIZED CARE

Ensuring the delivery of newborn and well-child care, including childhood immunization, requires different strategies. The following are strategies recommended by AAP:

- Separating well visits from sick visits. Scheduling well visits in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon.
- Separating patients spatially, such as by placing patients with sick visits in different areas of the clinic.
- Clinics with multiple practice sites may consider using one office location to see all well visits (staffed by those in higher risk categories) and another location for sick visits.
- Collaborating with providers in the community to identify separate locations for holding well visits for children.
- If available, pediatricians are encouraged to increase their capacity to deliver telehealth and utilize “drive through” dedicated COVID-19 testing sites.

IMPORTANT: Local Health Departments (LHDs) immunization clinics may be impacted by current COVID-19 response activities led by public health staff. As a result, some may have also reduced or closed immunization clinics and may not be able to immunize patients at this time. Please check with your LHDs before any referrals.

Guidance can be found at <https://eziz.org/vfc/enrollment/>.

CDC AND AAP GUIDANCE

- AAP: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/covid-19-clinical-guidance-q-a/>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html>.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please call the VFC Customer Service Center at 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC).

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://www.vchca.org/immunization-program>

or follow us on:



Ventura County Public Health Immunization Program

Phone: (805) 981-5211 Fax: (805) 981-5210 immunization.program@ventura.org