

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



National Public Health Week

April 1 - 7, 2019

Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health.

National Public Health Week 2019: Changing Our Future Together

National Public Health Week (NPHW), organized annually by the American Public Health Association, presents an opportunity for communities across the United States to reflect on the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation. More importantly, NPHW serves as an excellent reminder of why public health exists: to tackle the underlying causes of poor health and disease risk – which are rooted in where we live, learn, work, and play – and ensure that everyone in our nation has a chance at a long and healthy life.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT <http://www.nphw.org/> Join us for a week of inspiring events, conversations and celebrations nationwide. Don't miss:

The Billion Steps Challenge, going on right now! It's not too late to [start a team or join one](#). The Challenge continues until April 7. Share your progress using #APHABillionSteps.

- Our annual Twitter chat, a conversation with public health leaders from around the country. Mark your calendar for April 3, and [don't forget to RSVP](#).
- Our [kickoff partner webinars](#) will help community leaders get involved early and plan events in their own backyards.

Our [fact sheets](#) are available year-round on the NPHW website so we can keep the momentum and learning going. Learn more about [this year's daily themes](#) and how you can be part of the movement for science, action and health.



National Infant Immunization Week

IMMUNIZATION. POWER TO PROTECT.

April 27- May 4, 2019



Help us Celebrate: April 27 – May 4, 2019 is National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)

From April 27- May 4, 2019, we will observe [National Infant Immunization Week \(NIIW\)](#). 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.

This year, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of NIIW. When the NIIW observance was established in 1994, immunization programs were facing significant challenges. The nation was in the midst of a serious measles outbreak and communities across the U.S. were seeing decreasing immunization rates among children.

The State of Oral Health in Ventura County:

Oral health contributes to a person's overall well-being and self-esteem. Teeth that function properly are essential for optimal nutrition as well as speech, hearing and language. An unhealthy mouth, especially if a person has gum disease, can increase the risk of serious health problems and is the leading chronic disease among children. Findings from a community-driven assessment indicate that in Ventura County it is estimated that 1:6 children have never had a dental visit and more than a quarter of adults reported they did not make a dental visit in the last year. Join us in implementing solutions to reduce oral health diseases in Ventura County. Please visit us at www.vchca.org/oral-health or contact JoAnn Torres at joann.torres@ventura.org.

VFC PROVIDERS:

2019 also marks the 25th anniversary of the Vaccines For Children (VFC) program. VFC is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay. The VFC program helps children get their vaccines according to the recommended immunization schedule. It has helped increase childhood immunization coverage levels, making a significant contribution to the elimination of disparities in vaccination coverage among young children.

Vaccines and Immunizations

Immunization is one of the greatest medical successes in human history. Immunizations have saved millions of lives over the past century. CDC is asking for your help to ensure that all patients are up to date on MMR vaccine. When it comes to vaccinations, parents trust the expertise of their doctor more than anyone else. Explain to patients that MMR vaccine is the best protection against measles infection.

- Protecting babies from whooping cough begins before a baby is even born. All pregnant women are recommended to receive the whooping cough vaccine (Tdap) during each pregnancy. Learn more about the CDC's Born with Protection campaign at www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant. Learn more about maternal vaccination at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy.
- Because of the success of vaccines in preventing disease, parents may not have heard of some of today's vaccines or the serious diseases they prevent. These diseases can be especially serious for infants and young children. That is why it is important to follow the recommended immunization schedule to protect infants and children by providing immunity early in life, before they encounter potentially life-threatening diseases.
- Despite being eliminated in the US; public health officials still report measles cases and outbreaks to the CDC. For example, the United States has already experienced outbreaks of measles during 2019. For measles resources and information on vaccination recommendations, including for children traveling internationally, visit www.cdc.gov/measles.
- Currently, the United States has the safest vaccine supply in its history. The United States' long-standing vaccine safety system ensures that vaccines are as safe as possible. As new information and science become available, vaccine recommendations are updated and improved.

Immunization Requirements for school: Changes to Requirements, New Regulations go into effect July 1st 2019 Visit www.shotsforschool.org to get up to date information on school entry requirements.

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

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