

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)

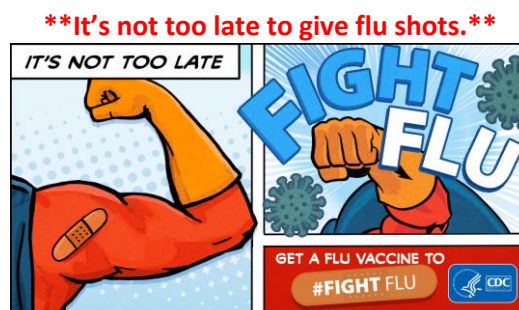
 [Click here](#) to view the 2019-2020 Flu Clinics Schedule

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. You can also refer them to the HealthMap Vaccine Finder to locate sites near their workplaces or homes that offer influenza vaccination services.

**Influenza is spreading and serious; use National Influenza Vaccination Week to remind your patients they need to be protected**

**National Influenza Vaccination Week. Be a flu fighter!**

- Make sure your patients 6 months and older are protected from flu.
- Some children younger than 9 years of age need two doses. Recall your patients who need their 2nd dose.



### Extreme Cold Weather

The onset of cold weather also brings on the threat of [colds and flu](#). The common cold virus, called rhinovirus, spreads more easily in winter months because more people are indoors for prolonged periods of time. Washing your hands, getting a flu shot, and boosting your immune system with a healthy diet are key to preventing colds and the flu.

When a winter storm is approaching your area, monitor your local television and radio stations, the [National Weather Service](#) or the [National Oceanic Atmospheric Association](#) for current weather information.

### Common Colds: Protect Yourself and Others

Sore throat and runny nose are usually the first signs of a cold, followed by coughing and sneezing. Most people recover in about 7-10 days. You can help reduce your risk of getting a cold: wash your hands often, avoid close contact with sick people, and don't touch your face with unwashed hands.

### You can help reduce your risk of getting a cold:

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water.** [Wash them for 20 seconds](#), and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Viruses that cause colds can live on your hands, and regular handwashing can help protect you from getting sick.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.** Viruses that cause colds can enter your body this way and make you sick

- **Stay away from people who are sick.** Sick people can spread viruses that cause the common cold through close contact with others.

### **CDC publishes updated ACIP recommendations for the use of PCV13 and PPSV23 pneumococcal vaccines for adults age 65 and older in this week's *MMWR***

CDC published Use of 13-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and 23-Valent Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine among Adults Aged ≥65 Years: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in the November 22 issue of *MMWR* (pages 1069–1075). Two important sections are reprinted below.

*New Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations for Adults Aged ≥65 Years Old* (page 1073)

**PCV13** vaccination is no longer routinely recommended for all adults aged ≥65 years. Instead, shared clinical decision-making for PCV13 use is recommended for persons aged ≥65 years who do not have an immunocompromising condition, CSF leak, or cochlear implant and who have not previously received PCV13.

**PPSV23** for adults aged ≥65 years. ACIP continues to recommend that all adults aged ≥65 years receive 1 dose of PPSV23. A single dose of PPSV23 is recommended for routine use among all adults aged ≥65 years. PPSV23 contains 12 serotypes in common with PCV13 and an additional 11 serotypes for which there are no indirect effects from PCV13 use in children. The additional 11 serotypes account for 32%–37% of IPD among adults aged ≥65 years. Adults aged ≥65 years who received ≥1 dose of PPSV23 before age 65 years should receive 1 additional dose of PPSV23 at age ≥65 years, at least 5 years after the previous PPSV23 dose.

Access the complete *MMWR* article:

- [PDF format](#)

### **VFC PROVIDERS:**

#### **Introduction to Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) Program**

The California VFC Program would like to inform you about a change to Compliance Site Visits that are conducted at clinics enrolled in VFC. Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) is a CDC provider-level quality improvement (QI) program designed to help increase on-time vaccination of children and adolescents. If selected, your VFC Program Representative (VFC or Immunization Branch Field Representative) will collaborate with your practice to implement this new quality improvement program. IQIP replaces CDC's quality improvement process known as AFIX. For more information [click here](#)

### **2020 Recertification**

#### **[2020 Recertification is coming– Your equipment must meet VFC requirements](#)**

#### **The VFC Customer Service Center will be closed on the following dates:**

- Wednesday, December 25, 2019 (Christmas Day)
- Wednesday, January 1, 2020 (New Year's Day)
- Monday, January 20, 2020 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Orders will continue to be received during these call center closures. Normal business hours will resume after each event. Please ensure that your practice has an adequate supply of VFC vaccines in stock to prevent running out of inventory during holiday closures.

#### **December-January Holiday Shipping Schedule**

There will be limited shipping the week of December 16th. The VFC Program's National Vaccine Distributor, McKesson Specialty, and Merck (shipments of varicella-containing vaccines) **will not ship vaccines** during the following dates in December and January:

- Friday, December 20, 2019 through Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

Please submit vaccine orders by Wednesday, December 11, to ensure adequate time for processing prior to the holiday. Normal vaccine deliveries will resume the week of January 6, 2020.

For any ordering or delivery questions, please call a VFC Customer Service Representative at (877) 243-8832, Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm, or visit our website [EZIZ.org](http://EZIZ.org) for important VFC Program communications and information.

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://www.vchca.org/immunization-program>  
or follow us on:



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