

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

Immunization Schedule: The [2018 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years](#) has been approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

[2018 Adult Immunization Schedule](#) for Persons Aged 19 years or older.

The schedule has been approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics ([AAP](#)), the American Academy of Family Physicians ([AAFP](#)), and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists ([ACOG](#)).

The comprehensive summary of the ACIP recommended changes to the schedule can be found in the [February 6, 2018 MMWR](#).

CDC reports that 84 U.S. children have died from influenza this season

CDC has reported in its [Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report, FluView](#), that as of the week ending February 10, influenza activity remained elevated in the United States. The total number of pediatric deaths has climbed to 84 since October 1, 2017. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 7.5%, which is above the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. New York City, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 43 states experienced high ILI activity; two states experienced moderate ILI activity; three states experienced low ILI activity; and two states experienced minimal ILI activity.

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 or to the [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) to locate sites near their workplaces or homes that offer influenza vaccination services.

Continue to protect pregnant women from severe influenza

During pregnancy, women are more susceptible to influenza and serious flu complications, including hospitalization, premature delivery and death. As influenza season continues, please:

- Strongly recommend flu vaccine to all pregnant women in any trimester.
- Promptly treat all pregnant and postpartum women (up to two weeks) with suspected influenza with a neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral. While antiviral drugs work best when treatment is started within 2 days of illness onset, clinical benefit has been observed even when treatment is initiated later. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a Health Advisory through its Health Alert Network (HAN): Seasonal Influenza A (H3N2) Activity and Antiviral Treatment of Patients with Influenza on December 27, 2017.
- When influenza is suspected, do **not** wait for test results to begin treatment with antivirals. **Treatment should begin promptly.** See ACOG and SMFM's Influenza Season Assessment and Treatment for Pregnant Women with ILI Algorithm.

You Need a Whooping Cough Vaccine during Each Pregnancy

- CDC recommends pregnant women get the whooping cough vaccine between 27 and 36 weeks of each pregnancy, preferably during the earlier part of this time. The [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) and the [American College of Nurse-Midwives](#) support this recommendation. The goal is to give babies some short-term protection against whooping cough in early life
- The amount of antibodies you have from the whooping cough vaccine will decrease over time. So women need a whooping cough vaccine during each pregnancy to give each baby the greatest number of protective antibodies. Getting the vaccine during pregnancy is the best way to help protect your baby from whooping cough in early life.

Getting the whooping cough vaccine while you are pregnant is very safe for you and your baby.

VFC Provider - 2018 VFC Recertification is due on Friday, March 2, 2018.

- All VFC Providers must complete the recertification process in order to continue participation in the VFC Program and receive publicly-funded vaccines.
- Failure to submit your 2018 VFC Recertification will result in suspension of vaccine ordering privileges.
- If you have already submitted your 2018 VFC Recertification, thank you and please disregard this message.

Helpful Tips for Submitting your 2018 VFC Recertification:

- Dedicate enough time to complete the VFC Recertification process.
- All key practice staff must complete the required [EZIZ lessons](#) prior to accessing the online Recertification form on your [MyVFCvaccines](#) account.
- Complete the Recertification Worksheet to gather required information ahead of time.
- Do not wait until the last minute to submit your VFC Recertification!

Have updates to your Key Practice Staff? You can update this information in the online recertification form. If you have already submitted your 2018 Recertification and need to make changes, use the Update Practice Information link on the provider main page in your [MyVFCvaccines](#) account. For changes to the Provider or Record or Designee after your 2018 Recertification has been submitted, a signed Key Practice Staff Change Request Form must be submitted to the VFC Program. For corrections to medical licenses, please contact the VFC Customer Service Center at 1-877-243-8832 for assistance.

For more information on the 2018 VFC Recertification process please refer to the January 31, 2018 VFC Program Letter.

Keep in mind that all VFC communications are always posted on VFC's website, www.eziz.org

Need assistance with CAIR? Contact the CAIR help desk or your local CAIR representative



The CAIR Help Desk hours are:
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

Phone: 800-578-7889 **FAX:** 888-436-8320

Email: CAIRHelpDesk@cdph.ca.gov

Local CAIR Representative:

Monica Hernandez
California Department of Public Health
P. 805-981-5118

Monica.Hernandez@ventura.org



You can also view this information on <http://vchca.org/public-health/for-health-care-providers> or follow us on:



Ventura County Public Health Immunization Program

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