

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

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. It's a great time to learn more about cervical cancer and ways to prevent this disease from affecting family and friends.

What Is Cervical Cancer?

- Cervical cancer is a disease caused by the uncontrolled growth of cells that line the cervix. The cervix is the lower part of the uterus that connects the uterus to the vaginal canal. Worldwide, cervical cancer is the 3rd most common cancer among women and the 2nd most frequent cause of cancer-related death. Fortunately, the availability of screening tests such as the Pap test have greatly reduced cases of cervical cancer in the U.S. In addition, several vaccines are available that can prevent the human papilloma virus (HPV) types that cause most cervical cancers.
- Today, approximately 12,000 women in the U.S. get cervical cancer each year, and 4,000 women die from it. Compared to all women, Latina women are more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer, while African American/Black women are more likely to die from it. These health disparities are largely the result of unequal access to healthcare, which leads to lower cervical cancer screening rates and delayed treatment if abnormal cell growth or cancer is identified. Some real-life stories from women and their families impacted by cervical cancer and HPV are available at this [link](#).

Influenza is spreading and serious; please keep vaccinating your patients

- It's not too late to get vaccinated.
- As long as flu viruses are circulating, vaccination should continue throughout the flu season, even in January or later.
- There are many reasons to get a flu vaccine.
 - While flu vaccine can vary in how well it works, it is the best way to prevent flu illness and serious flu complications, including those that can result in hospitalization.
 - Even with vaccine effectiveness in the range of 30 to 60 percent, flu vaccination prevents millions of illnesses and tens of thousands of flu-related hospitalizations each year.
 - A QA explaining why recent reports of 10 percent flu vaccine effectiveness in Australia may not apply to the U.S. this season has been posted on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2017-2018.htm#effectiveness>.
 - Influenza activity continues to be widespread and elevated. At least 37 deaths in children nationwide, many of whom were unvaccinated, have been reported thus far.
 - Please continue to immunize children and adolescents who have not yet received their influenza vaccine this season, especially those with a higher risk of severe influenza because they have chronic conditions or are younger than 5 years of age.

To VFC Providers:

VFC Influenza Vaccine Supply

Seasonal influenza activity has sharply increased in the past several weeks and is now widespread in California. The California VFC Program is encouraging providers to ensure children 6 months of age and older are protected. Vaccination, even after the holiday break, is a good way to make sure patients in your practice are protected! Additional doses of influenza vaccine for VFC-eligible children may be ordered through the VFC Program's Supplemental Flu Ordering system.

All products are in single dose-syringes, quadrivalent, inactivated and contain no preservative.

Age	Product	Supply Information
6-35 Months	Pediatric Fluzone® (0.25 mL dose)	Additional doses received; available to all providers.
	FluLaval® (0.5 mL dose)	Please limit use for ONLY patients 6-35 months of age despite product license information.
3-18 Years	Fluzone® (0.5 mL dose)	<i>New doses received; available to all providers.</i>
	Flucelvax® (0.5 mL dose)	For use in children at least 4 years of age.

Please ensure your supplemental order accurately reflects 1) VFC flu vaccine doses administered since your last flu order and 2) the number of VFC flu doses on-hand by lot number.

2018 VFC RECERTIFICATION COMING SOON!

- This is an important reminder that 2018 VFC Recertification is coming soon. All VFC providers must complete the recertification process in order to continue participation in the program and receive publicly funded vaccines.
- Details on the 2018 Recertification process should be coming soon if you do not received emails from VFC. Information can be found at www.eziz.org.

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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://vchca.org/public-health/for-health-care-providers> or follow us on:



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