



## Monthly Immunization Update March 2018

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)

**NIIW: A Campaign for Infant and Toddler Month:** Please join us in celebrating **National Infant Immunization Week, April 21 - 28, 2018** and Toddler Immunization Month in May.

National Infant Immunization Week (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. Since 1994, hundreds of communities across the United States have joined together to celebrate the critical role vaccination plays in protecting our children, communities, and public health.

NIIW 2017 we will be celebrated as part of World Immunization Week (WIW), an initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO). During WIW, all six WHO regions, including more than 180 Member States, territories, and areas, will simultaneously promote immunization, advance equity in the use of vaccines and universal access to vaccination services, and enable cooperation on cross-border immunization activities.

The [Shots for School website](#) now features a look-up tool that will aid in identifying [child care centers](#) with low immunization rates. Search by zip code or facility/school name to view immunization rates in your area.

Providers should also review Toolkits and information provided by CDC @ <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niw/overview.html>

### **NEW IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE UPDATES:**

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. A summary of the updates to the 2018 immunization schedule was published in the [MMWR](#) on February 9, 2018, and the figures, footnotes, and tables are posted on the [CDC website](#). For each vaccine, the footnotes summarize the current recommendations for routine and catch-up immunizations and recommendations for high-risk persons. Additional guidance on use of each vaccine may be found in the respective [ACIP vaccine recommendations](#) publications.

In keeping with your VFC provider agreement, VFC Providers agree to comply with immunization schedules, dosages, and contraindications that are established by the ACIP for vaccines offered to patient populations served. Providers should follow the [recommended 2018 ACIP immunization schedule](#). We encourage providers to review the 2018 immunization schedule, complete footnotes, and catch-up schedule together with all staff, especially those who order and administer vaccines. We recommend that the 2018 schedules, including footnotes, be posted for reference in the office. Copies of the 2018 ACIP Immunization Schedule are expected to be available to VFC providers through VFC's Material Store in April 2018. A notification will be e-mailed to providers.

## **CDC reports five additional pediatric deaths from influenza in the U.S. between October 1 and March 3, bringing total to 119; influenza still widespread**

CDC has reported in its Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report, FluView, that as of the week ending March 3, although influenza activity declined, it was still widespread in more than 42 states. With five reported pediatric deaths, the total number has climbed to 119 since October 1, 2017. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 3.7%, which is above the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. New York City and 21 states experienced high ILI activity; 15 states experienced moderate ILI activity; the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and five states experienced low ILI activity; and nine 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.

### **VFC Providers:**

#### **VFC Recertification was Due March 2, 2018.**

All VFC Providers must complete the recertification process 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. EZIZ Lesson issues? Try a different browser, such as the most recent versions of Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome. Ensure that you have the most up to date Adobe Flash Player properly installed in your computer. Click the link in your EZIZ training learning history page to check your Flash Player. Work with your IT department to enable Flash if your organization's IT system blocks Flash Player.

#### **Vaccine Safety: REMINDER: You must inspect every vaccine shipment!**

- Inspect the package for damage.
- Open it immediately and verify vaccines were shipped within the correct temperature range.
- Check the monitor (for refrigerated vaccines) or shipping date (for frozen vaccines).
- Check the packing slip to verify you received what you ordered.
- Store the vaccines properly.

#### **Use the [Vaccine Receiving Log and Checklist](#) to guide you. If you have any concerns, call the VFC Customer Service Immediately.**

Keep vaccine storage equipment, including thermometers, running smoothly by changing your batteries?

#### **VFC Eligibility Reminder:**

To be eligible for VFC vaccines, children must be 18 years of age or younger and meet one of these criteria: Be eligible for Medi-Cal or CHDP or Have no health insurance coverage or Be American Indian or Alaskan Native. Screen every patient at every visit. Document their eligibility in a VFC-compliant record keeping system.

**FLU VACCINES EXPIRE ON DIFFERENT DATES:** Double check the expiration dates of all the flu vaccine in your practice. Always remove expired vaccine from the refrigerator. Report expired vaccines through MyVFCvaccines. Remember, call your VFC Rep if you have short dated vaccine or have questions.

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:



**Ventura County Public Health Immunization Program**

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