

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)

### May is Toddler Immunization Month

Vaccine-preventable diseases, like whooping cough, influenza and hepatitis A are still present in our community and still a threat to the health of our community—including some of the most vulnerable people, our children. National Infant Immunization Week and Toddler Immunization Month celebrate the power to protect children that immunization offers. To learn more about these observances, and for downloadable materials and resources to celebrate the Week and Month, please visit our [National Infant Immunization Week and Toddler Immunization Month web page](#).

Are all the toddlers in your practice up-to-date on their vaccines? A baby's 1st birthday is not just an occasion for cake; it's an important health milestone. One-year-olds need a well-child check-up and routine vaccines. Children between 12 and 15 months old are recommended to receive Hep A, MMR, Varicella, Hib, and PCV. Kids 15-18 months old need a 4th dose of DTaP. Some patients might need a catch-up dose or a flu vaccine, so check every child's shot record at every visit. **Never miss an opportunity to vaccinate.**

[EZIZ.org](http://EZIZ.org) has lots of great staff resources. Download and review these today:

- Immunization Timing Block Schedule for 2018
- Immunization Schedule with Combination Vaccines
- Hepatitis A Fact Sheet
- MMR Fact Sheet
- Varicella Fact Sheet
- Hib Fact Sheet
- DTaP Fact Sheet

### **SAVE THE DATE: June 13, 2018**

The Immunization Program will have their annual immunization update.

Presented by: Steven J. Vantine, Education Consultant, California Department of Public Health – Immunization.

Please call 805-981-5211 or email [immunization.program@ventura.org](mailto:immunization.program@ventura.org) to reserve your spot.

### Standards for Adult Immunization Practice

- Some clinics in the county offer VFA (Vaccine for Adults) at no cost or low cost for those who qualify. You can contact the immunization program @ 805-981-5211 for a list of clinics.

Why should adult immunization be a priority for your practice?

1. **Your patients are probably not getting the vaccines they need.** Even though most private insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines, adult vaccination rates in the United States are extremely low. Each year, tens of thousands of adults needlessly suffer, are hospitalized, and even die as a result of diseases that could be prevented by vaccines.
2. **Your patients are likely not aware that they need vaccines.** Although adults do believe immunization is important, many don't know which vaccines are recommended for them throughout their lives. Many also report not receiving vaccine recommendations from their healthcare professional.

3. **You play a critical role in ensuring that your patients are fully immunized.** Clinicians are the most valued and trusted source of health information for adults. Your patients rely on you to inform them about the vaccines they need. Research shows that a recommendation from their healthcare professional is the top predictor of patients getting vaccinated.

### **Hepatitis Testing Day – May 19**

May is Hepatitis Awareness Month and May 19th is national Hepatitis Testing Day in the United States. Millions of Americans have chronic viral hepatitis and most of them do not know they are infected. Hepatitis Testing Day is an opportunity to remind health care providers and the public who should be tested for viral hepatitis.

#### **Four Things You Should Know About Viral Hepatitis:**

1. **Hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C are all different diseases.**

Each type of hepatitis is caused by a different virus and spread in different ways. [Hepatitis A](#) does not cause a long-term infection, although it can make people very sick. [Hepatitis B](#) and [hepatitis C](#) can become chronic, life-long infections and lead to serious health problems.

2. **Chronic hepatitis is a leading cause of liver cancer.**

Chronic hepatitis B and C can cause serious damage to the liver, including liver damage, cirrhosis, and even liver cancer. In fact, more than 60 percent of liver cancer cases are related to hepatitis B or C.

3. **Most people with chronic hepatitis do not know they are infected.**

More than four million Americans are living with chronic hepatitis in the United States, but most do not know they are infected. Many people live with chronic hepatitis for decades without symptoms or feeling sick.

4. **Getting tested could save your life.**

Lifesaving treatments are available for chronic hepatitis B and new treatments are available that can cure hepatitis C still, getting tested is the only way to know if you are infected. Take CDC's [Hepatitis Risk Assessment](#) to see if you should be tested for viral hepatitis.

#### **VFC PROVIDERS:**

##### **2017-2018 Influenza Vaccine Update:**

Although this year's flu season is coming to an end, please keep the following information in mind:

- Flu activity continues to decrease, though sporadic activity may continue until the season is over.
- If you have patients 6 months and older in your practice who have not yet received their annual influenza vaccine or who may need their second dose and/or you have children with a long-term health condition like asthma, diabetes and heart disease, please ensure they are fully vaccinated and optimally protected against influenza.
- VFC has adequate flu vaccine supplies still available to support your continuing flu vaccination efforts.
- Check your flu vaccine expiration dates as some doses will expire in late May or June.
- Flu vaccine is good until expiration. **Do not** remove viable vaccine doses from your storage unit prior to expiration. This will result in preventable negligent vaccine wastage.
- Upon expiration, remove expired doses from your vaccine storage unit immediately. Complete and submit a VFC Return Form and request a return shipment label by logging into your MyVFCVaccines account on [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org).

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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