



Monthly Immunization Update

November 2023

Dear Providers and Partners,

The purpose of this newsletter is to deliver quick and meaningful updates to support our providers in a variety of vaccine settings and, maintain our connection with all of you. We welcome your questions and comments. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Thank you!

Making a Strong Influenza Vaccine Recommendation for Perinatal Patients



As a health care professional, your strong recommendation is a critical factor in whether your patients get an influenza vaccine. Influenza (flu) is more likely to cause illness that results in hospitalization in pregnant people than in people of reproductive age who are not pregnant. Flu also may be harmful for a pregnant person's developing baby. Getting the flu vaccine during pregnancy can protect the pregnant person from flu and flu related hospitalizations. Flu vaccination during pregnancy also can protect babies for several months after birth against flu and flu-related hospitalizations because the pregnant parent passes antibodies on to the developing baby during pregnancy. People who get a flu vaccine while pregnant or breastfeeding also develop antibodies against flu that they can share with their infants through their breast milk. CDC and ACIP recommend that pregnant people get vaccinated during any trimester of their pregnancy. For more information please visit the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) website.

Inside this issue:

Making a Strong Influenza Vaccine Recommendation for Perinatal Patients 1

California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Update 1

Healthy Gatherings 2

RSV Key Messages 2

California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Update

The weekly Provider California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Updates webinar has officially transitioned to the CDPH Immunization Branch Updates for Providers. It still occurs weekly on Fridays at 9am-10:30am, but the scope will expand to include all immunization topics for California Providers with special segments for Bridge Access program (BAP) and Vaccines for Children (VFC). You can register for these webinars [here](#). We encourage you to continue participating in these webinars to stay up to date with the latest information from the State on immunizations.



Healthy Gatherings

As holidays are approaching the single best way to reduce the risk of seasonal flu and its potentially serious complications is to get vaccinated each year, but good habits like avoiding people who are sick, covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like flu.

Some tips and resources below will help you learn about actions you can take to protect yourself and others from flu and help stop the spread of germs.

1. Avoid close contact.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

2. Stay home when you are sick.

If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.

3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Germs can be spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

For more tips and resources please see the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website](https://www.cdc.gov).



Respiratory Syncytial Virus Key Messages

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) activity is increasing [nationally](#). In California, RSV is most common between October and March.

Some key messages to keep in mind about RSV:

- There are now two immunization methods available to prevent severe respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) disease in infants: maternal RSV vaccination and infant immunization with RSV monoclonal antibody.
- The [CDC](#) and [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) (ACOG) recommend maternal RSV vaccination to protect infants from severe RSV disease. Pregnant people who are 32 through 36 weeks pregnant during September through January should get a single dose of Pfizer's bivalent RSVpreF vaccine ([Abrysvo](#)).
- Either maternal or infant RSV immunization is recommended. Most infants will not need both. Providers should counsel families on both immunization options.
- It is vital that all maternal RSV vaccines administered are entered into the [California Immunization Registry](#). Pediatric providers will require this information to assess the eligibility of infants for RSV immunization.

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We are on the web!

<https://vchca.org/immunization-program>

or follow us on



Ventura County Public Health Immunization Program, in collaboration with Emergency Medical Services, Communicable Disease Program, and Health Education Team, just finished up this season's large scale immunization events. **We thank all those who helped accomplish this great activity!**

