

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)

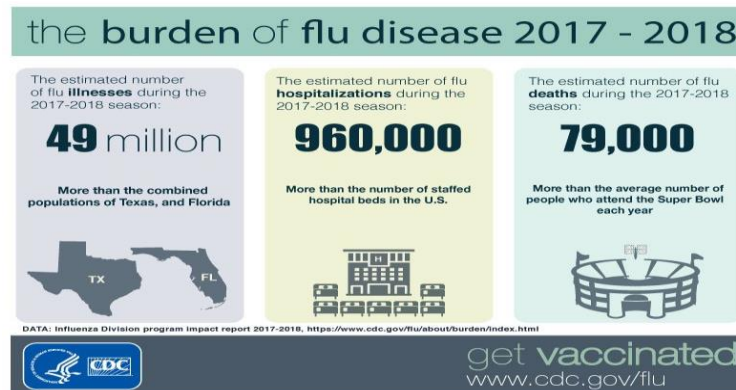
### Ventura County Flu Clinics Schedule

Click here  to view the 2018–19 Flu Clinics Schedule.

### Influenza is spreading and serious; please keep vaccinating your patients

Influenza season is now under way. Last season, there was a record-setting number of pediatric deaths in the United States (185), so be sure to protect all your patients for whom vaccination is recommended. CDC has stated in its *Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report, FluView*, that as of the week ending November 3, local influenza-like illness (ILI) has been reported in Guam and six states (Connecticut, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Oregon), with sporadic ILI reported in 40 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported for the 2018–19 season.



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. You can also refer them to the HealthMap Vaccine Finder to locate sites near their workplaces or homes that offer influenza vaccination services.

Following is a list of resources related to influenza disease and vaccination for healthcare professionals and the public:

- CDC's Seasonal [Flu web section](#)
- CDC's [FluView web section](#)

### From American Academy of Pediatrics: A Guide to Adolescent Immunizations: Flip Chart for Pediatric Offices and Parents is now available in Simplified Chinese and Spanish, as well as English

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is proud to announce its "A Guide to Adolescent Immunizations: Flip Chart for Pediatric Offices and Parents" resource is now available in three languages: English, Spanish, and Simplified Chinese. This resource is aimed at helping pediatric healthcare providers discuss adolescent immunizations with their patients and families by providing information and answers to parents' questions about adolescent vaccines in easy-to-understand infographics with corresponding talking points for healthcare providers.

The electronic versions of the flipchart are available by request through AAP. [Click here](#) to learn more. Physical copies are available in limited quantities, on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. To request a physical copy, please [click here](#) to access the online request form.

## VFC Providers

### Communicating with Patients about Flu Vaccination: Overcoming Barriers

When your patients say...

#### “I got vaccinated last year and got sick anyway.”

- Many other germs besides the flu cause symptoms similar to flu – you might have caught one of them.
- The Flu Vaccine takes 2 weeks to work; you may have been infected before you had immunity.

#### “The flu shot gave me the flu.”

- Flu shots are made with killed virus that cannot give you the flu. Sometimes your body’s immune response after vaccination can make you feel a little ill, and that’s normal—it just means your body’s defenses are working.

#### “Flu vaccine is not effective. why bother?”

- Circulating viruses change every year. Last year, the flu vaccine was [36%-67% effective](#).
- Flu is very serious and can cause pneumonia, hospitalization and death.
- Even though the flu vaccine is not 100% effective, vaccination may make your illness milder
- Two studies in 2017 showed [flu vaccination resulted in fewer complications](#) like hospital or ICU stays for adults, and [lowered the risk of death for children by over 50%](#).

For more stories of vaccine preventable diseases visit: <http://www.shotbyshot.org/>

### EVERY TIME you place a vaccine order, review your practice’s delivery days and times.

Deliveries are made according information reflected in your “[MYVFCVaccines](#)” account. If your practice will be on vacation or unable to receive shipments, please contact the VFC Customer Service Center as soon as possible.

Undeliverable shipments due to incorrect shipping hours lead to delivery delays, can result in vaccine damage, and may even lead to a negligent vaccine loss. Your practice may be held financially accountable. All staff working with immunizations should be knowledgeable about proper procedures for receiving, inspecting, and storing vaccines.

**2018-2019 Influenza Vaccine Supply Update:** For information on Vaccine Supply updates and Supplemental ordering visit. <http://eziz.org>

### VFC Resources:

- [2018-19 Flu Vaccine Guide](#)
- [VFC Provider Operations Manual](#)
- [California Immunization Registry \(CAIR\)](#)
- [Temperature Logs and Job Aids](#)
- [Thermometer Calibration Requirements](#)
- [Digital Data Loggers](#)
- [Immunization Champion](#)

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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