



Monthly Immunization Update October 2020

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

The Public Health Immunization Program and Emergency Medical Services are providing two drive-thru flu vaccine events.

DRIVE-THRU FLU VACCINE EVENTS

Where: Santa Paula

City parking lot located at the corner of E. Main St. & N. Ojai St., Santa Paula, 93060

When: Thursday, November 12, 2020
2:00PM-6:00PM

Where: Moorpark College

7075 Campus Rd
Moorpark, 93021

When: Saturday, November 14, 2020
10:00AM-4:00PM

Additional Community Flu Clinics Available!

Click [here](#) for more information.

Flu Shots are More Important Than Ever

In an effort to prevent a "twindemic" of COVID-19 and seasonal influenza, we are urging all Californians, 6 months of age and older, to get vaccinated against the flu now. [Influenza](#) (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness that can cause mild to severe illness. A bad case of the flu can result in hospitalization or even death. Older adults and those with certain health conditions, are at high risk of serious flu complications. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated.

Mass Vaccination Planning During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Mass vaccination events planned during the COVID-19 pandemic must include comprehensive [social distancing and infection control procedures](#) to protect healthcare workers and patients.

Mass vaccination includes a range of venues, populations, and vaccine products, and generally refers to immunizations delivered at satellite, temporary, or off-site locations. Those planning these events may need to consider changes this year, including appointment-based events and the use of online or phone-based pre-registration to ensure proper social distancing.

This guidance applies to clinics that

- Are open to the public OR for targeted populations only
- Are provisionally located at walk-through sites OR settings such as mobile, curbside, or drive-thru sites
- Provide routine vaccination or emergency vaccination in a preparedness scenario.

The 2020 immunization gap continues!

Data from the California Immunization Registry show that the deferral of routine immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic is leaving hundreds of thousands of children of all ages vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. As compared with 2019, in 2020:

- 12% fewer children under 3 years have received their first dose of MMR
- 22% fewer children ages 4-6 have received their second dose of MMR
- 25% fewer children ages 11-13 have received their Tdap booster

As patients come to your clinic this fall and winter for flu vaccine, assess them and administer their routine immunizations! All vaccines due or overdue should be administered according to the recommended [CDC immunization schedules](#). The [CDC catch-up schedule](#) can be helpful for children who are behind.

Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today.

California's history of earthquakes, wildfires, and floods each year around this time are constant reminders of why we always need to be prepared for emergencies. Dry weather and high winds in October can trigger planned Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events due to their key role in contributing to new and current ongoing wildfires, and subsequent floods.

Some emergencies and PSPS events may require you to [temporarily close your clinic](#) and transport your vaccines to a safe location.

Did you know improper vaccine transport is the leading primary reason for vaccine loss? Make sure you know how to properly transport vaccines.

- Review Section 6 of your [Vaccine Management Plan: Management Plan for Emergencies](#)
- Double check your vaccine transport supplies (data logger, ice packs, cooler, bubble wrap). Label them and keep them accessible.
- Safeguard your vaccines by ALWAYS using VFC-compliant Digital Data Loggers, including during vaccine transport if transport is indicated and if conditions are safe.
- [VFC Program Operations Manual \(POM\)](#) : Responding to Vaccine-Related Emergencies.

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://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