



Monthly Immunization Update

May 2024

Greetings Ventura County Schools and Partners,

This newsletter is meant to keep you updated on issues related to vaccines quickly and easily 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!

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island). Like most commemorative months, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated with Congress. In 1977 Reps. Frank Horton of New York introduced [House Joint Resolution 540](#) to proclaim the first ten days in May as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week. In the same year, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a similar resolution, [Senate Joint Resolution 72](#). Neither of these resolutions passed, so in June 1978, Rep. Horton introduced [House Joint Resolution 1007](#). This resolution proposed that the President should “proclaim a week, which is to include the seventh and tenth of the month, during the first ten days in May of 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’” This joint resolution was passed by the House and then the Senate and was signed by President Jimmy Carter on October 5, 1978 to become [Public Law 95-419](#) (PDF, 158kb). This law amended the original language of the bill and directed the President to issue a proclamation for the “7 day period beginning on May 4, 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’” During the next decade, presidents passed annual proclamations for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week until 1990 when Congress passed [Public Law 101-283](#) (PDF, 166kb) which expanded the observance to a month for 1990. Then in 1992, Congress passed [Public Law 102-450](#) (PDF, 285kb) which annually designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority



Inside this issue:

<i>Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month</i>	1
<i>Hepatitis Awareness Month</i>	2
<i>Updates and Reminders</i>	2



Hepatitis Awareness Month

The month of May is designated as Hepatitis Awareness Month in the United States, and May 19th is Hepatitis Testing Day. During May, CDC and our public health partners work to shed light on the impact of these hidden epidemics by raising awareness of viral hepatitis while encouraging testing and vaccination. Hepatitis Awareness Month activities help to improve everyone's understanding of viral hepatitis transmission and risk factors and to decrease social stigma against viral hepatitis.

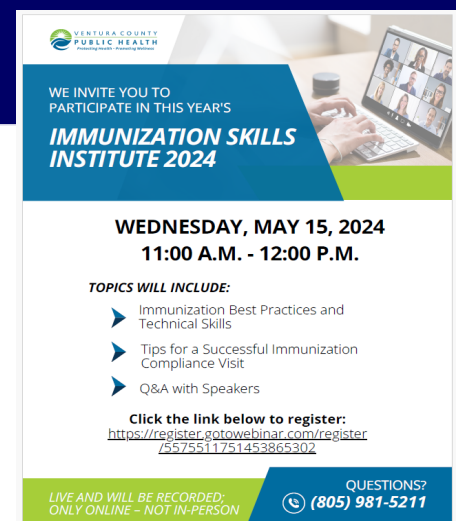
Viral Hepatitis Key Facts

- There are several different viruses that can cause hepatitis; the most common types of viral hepatitis are hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.
- Chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C are leading causes of liver cancer in the United States.
- Both hepatitis A and hepatitis B are preventable with safe and effective vaccines, and hepatitis C is curable with prescribed treatment. CDC [recommends](#) all adults through age 59 and adults age 60 or older with risk factors get [vaccinated](#) against hepatitis A and hepatitis B. If you are age 60 or older and do not have risk factors, you may choose to get vaccinated.
- About 66% of people with hepatitis B are unaware of their infection and about 40% of people living with hepatitis C do not know they are infected.

CDC recommends all adults get tested for [hepatitis B](#) and [hepatitis C](#) at least once in their lifetime and pregnant women get tested during each pregnancy. Getting tested is the only way to know if you have hepatitis B or hepatitis C.

Updates & Reminders!

- May is **National Nurses Appreciation** month! Make sure to give a big thank you to all your nurses!
- Ventura County Public Health invites you to this year's Immunization Skills Institute on Wednesday, May 15th, 2024 from 11am-12pm. Register at [Registration \(gotowebrinar.com\)](#)
- Ventura County Public Health's Immunization Program will be hosting free Tdap event open to the public on the following date:
 - Friday, **May 17th**, 2:45-4:15pm at Medea Creek Middle School
1002 Doubletree Rd. Oak Park, CA 91377



VENTURA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S

IMMUNIZATION SKILLS INSTITUTE 2024

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024
11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- ▶ Immunization Best Practices and Technical Skills
- ▶ Tips for a Successful Immunization Compliance Visit
- ▶ Q&A with Speakers

Click the link below to register:
<https://register.gotowebrinar.com/register/5575511751453865302>

LIVE AND WILL BE RECORDED; ONLY ONLINE - NOT IN-PERSON

QUESTIONS? (805) 981-5211

Ventura County Public Health Immunization Program

Email: immunization.program@ventura.org

Phone: (805)981-5211

Fax: (805)981-5210

We are on the web!

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

or follow us on



VENTURA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency