

# Monthly Immunization Update

January 2024

Dear Schools and partners ,

The purpose of this newsletter is to deliver quick and meaningful updates to support our schools and partners 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 all of your colleagues. Thank you !

## *Cervical Health Awareness Month*

The United States Congress designated January as **Cervical Health Awareness Month**. More than 14,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer each year, but the disease is preventable with vaccination and appropriate screening (HPV/Pap cotest).

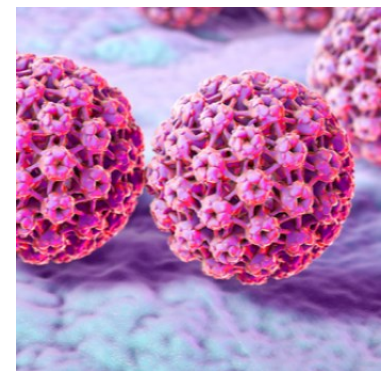
HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States. In 2018, there were about 43 million HPV infections in the US, many among people in their late teens and early 20s. HPV is transmitted through skin-to-skin contact, during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Most people who become infected with HPV will not have any symptoms and will clear the infection on their own. Yet, when HPV infections persist, they might lead to abnormal Pap tests, genital warts, or cancer.

[HPV vaccination is the best protection against cancers caused by HPV.](#)



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all children get vaccinated for HPV at ages 11 or 12 years, but vaccination can be started at **age 9** as the vaccine produces a stronger immune response when taken during the preteen years. Catch-up vaccination is recommended up to age 26 years. HPV vaccine is also available for adults ages 27–45 years. If you haven't been vaccinated for HPV you should talk to your health care provider to see if vaccination is right for you.

Please Reach out to us at Ventura County Public Health—Immunization Program for parent-friendly resources and material.



### Inside this issue:

Cervical Health Awareness	1
COVID-19 and Flu Shot Availability	2
Shots for School	2
Tdap Events	2

## COVID-19 and Flu Vaccines for Children and Adults

Updated commercialized COVID-19 vaccines are now available for children and adults.

[Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) - Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you

[Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) - Search for flu vaccine locations

### Shots for School

The Shots for School website is a complete guide to all things immunizations and schools for the State of California.

[Shots for School \(ca.gov\)](https://shotsforschool.ca.gov)

[California Immunization Handbook](#)

[PH brochure \(vchca.org\)](https://www.vchca.org)



Congratulations!! In 2023 your partnership with Ventura County Public Health Immunization Program provided 1,000 doses of Tdap to 7th graders and their families. With the new school year right around the corner, please let us know via email or at the HSSPC meeting 1/18/24, if your district is interested in hosting a community Tdap event.

Tentative Tdap events for Spring 2024:

- Anacapa Middle School
- Hueneme School District
- Oxnard School District



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We are on the web!

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

or follow us on

