



Monthly Immunization Update

September 2024

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!

Vaccines Prevent Disease and Save Lives

Vaccines have saved lives for over 100 years and are essential to protecting people from deadly diseases. Getting vaccinated on time is essential throughout childhood. This helps protect children before they are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases.

Research shows that routine vaccinations for children born during 1994–2023 will have prevented about 508 million illnesses and 32 million hospitalizations and saved over 1.1 million lives. All recommended vaccines for children are held to the highest standards of safety. They are carefully studied and monitored for side effects.

Steps healthcare providers can take to increase vaccination are:

- Offer accurate information on vaccination benefits
- Assess for needed vaccines and give catch-up vaccines
- Strengthen relationships with families



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COVID-19 cases are on the rise, be sure to talk to patients on receiving the updated COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for everyone six months and older, and anyone 65+ should also receive one additional dose of the 2023-2024 vaccine if it's been 4 months since their last dose.

For additional information and guidance on COVID-19 please visit CDPH's (California Department of Public Health's) [webpage](#).



Benefits of the Flu Vaccine

Despite the many benefits offered by flu vaccination, only about half of Americans get an annual flu vaccine. During an average flu season, flu can cause millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations, and tens of thousands of deaths. Many more people could be protected from flu if more people got vaccinated.

There are many reasons to get an influenza (flu) vaccine each year.

Below is a summary of the benefits of flu vaccination and selected scientific studies that support these benefits.

- Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related doctor's visits each year. For example, during [2019-2020](#), the last flu season prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, flu vaccination prevented an estimated 7 million influenza illnesses, 3 million influenza-associated medical visits, 100,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations, and 7,000 influenza-associated deaths.
- During seasons when flu vaccine viruses are similar to circulating flu viruses, flu vaccine has been shown to reduce the risk of having to go to the doctor with flu by 40 - 60%.
- A [2021 study](#) showed that among adults hospitalized with flu, vaccinated patients had a 26% lower risk of intensive care unit (ICU) admission and a 31% lower risk of death from flu compared with those who were unvaccinated.

For more information on benefits on getting the flu vaccine please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage](#).

Announcements:

Ventura County Public Health's Immunization Program and Emergency Medical Services will be hosting free community Flu events open to the public on the following dates:

- **Sunday, September 29th** at the **Oxnard College Swap meet** from **9:00AM to 3:30PM**
4000 S Rose Ave, Oxnard, CA
- **Wednesday, October 9th** at **Sheridan Way Elementary** from **2:00PM to 7:00PM**
573 Sheridan Way, Ventura, CA
- **Tuesday, October 15th** at **Our Lady Guadalupe Church** from **4PM to 8PM**
427 North Oak Street, Santa Paula

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We are on the web!

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

or follow us on

