

# Monthly Immunization Update

February 2025

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!

## *Black History Month*

February is black history month. Ventura County Public Health's Immunization Program recognizes the contributions of Black Americans to vaccinology throughout history, including:

- Onesimus, an enslaved man introduced the idea smallpox variolation in the United states in the 1700's
- Louis Tompkins Wright, the first black surgeon on staff at Harlem Hospital in New York City, developed a new way to give the smallpox vaccine in 1920s and 1930s
- Loney Clinton Gordon was one of three women to develop the pertussis vaccine in the 1940s
- Henrietta Lacks cancer cells from the 1950s contributed to the development of the first polio vaccine, the HPV vaccine, and the COVID-19 vaccine
- Mae C. Jemison, the first Black astronaut, worked in vaccine research at CDC in the 1980s and 1990s
- Kizzmekia S. Corbett, a viral immunologist at NIH, now at Harvard, played a key role in developing the Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.



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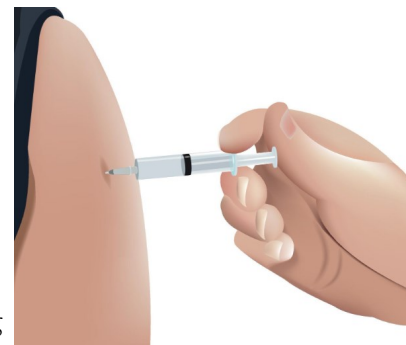
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Health inequities and disparities result, in part, from lower vaccination rates among Black Americans. Ventura County Public Health encourages everyone to do their part to close gaps in vaccination awareness disparities in health outcomes.

## Shingles Awareness Week

Shingles week takes place this year from February 1st-28th. Shingles Awareness Week was established to raise awareness around misconceptions about the risks of developing shingles. Over 90% of adults over the age of 50 already carry the virus that causes shingles and over 30% of adults will develop shingles in their lifetime. However, a global survey of adults aged 50 and above showed that only ~7% believe they are at high risk of developing shingles. Join AIM in highlighting the importance of getting vaccinated against shingles!



## RSV Vaccine during your pregnancy

RSV is a common cause of severe respiratory illness in infants. Babies infected with RSV can have difficulty breathing and eating and sometimes may need respiratory support or hydration in the hospital. There are two ways to protect your baby from getting very sick with RSV. You can choose to get RSV vaccine during weeks 32 through 36 of your pregnancy during September to January, or your baby aged 8 months or younger can get RSV immunization during their first RSV season.



Getting an RSV vaccine during your pregnancy or getting your baby an RSV immunization can help protect your baby.



**75+? Or 60+ with health conditions like heart disease or diabetes? An RSV vaccine can protect you from serious illness so you can keep stirring things up.**

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We are on the web!

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

or follow us on

