



# San Diego Immunization Coalition Monthly Update

## Jan. 15, 2016

www.sdizcoalition.org

### COALITION NOTES

- **The Next SDIC General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, but is subject to change**



On Jan. 5, the Rosecrans Health Services Complex suffered severe storm damage and the building was closed. Staff were moved to alternate work locations. Repairs are progressing, but at this point it is not certain that the facility will be ready for the General Meeting on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Staff are working with the Co-Chairs to arrange for an alternate meeting site if needed. **For now, the General Meeting site (Rosecrans Health Services Complex), day (Wednesday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>) and time (12:30 pm) have not changed. If there are any changes to any of this information, staff will send out an announcement to SDIC partners through this notification system (MailChimp).**

- **Preteen Vaccine Week (PVW) is Feb. 7-13, 2016**

Preteen Vaccine Week is an annual statewide observance to raise awareness about California's Tdap requirement for incoming 7th grade students, immunization recommendations for 11- and 12-year-olds, and promote the preteen doctor visit. This year's theme is PROTECT Their Health for the Years Ahead.

As children enter the preteen years, they need vaccine protection not only for the present, but to help them stay healthy into the teenage years and as they become adults. That's what Preteen Vaccine Week is all about.

We'll be mailing social media messages, a sample email message, a drop-in newsletter article, and a variety of promotional materials to be emailed out to partners at the beginning of next month. And we'll have a County Immunization Program 2016 PVW webpage posted later this month with information, links and downloadable resources.

- **Happy New Year! It's STILL Not Too Late To Get Flu Vaccine!**

New Year is a time of new beginnings. Many things change, but some remain the same. One thing that doesn't change in the new year is flu season. Cases of influenza continue to be reported in the County (see **INFLUENZA ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTY** below). Flu season has not yet peaked (in the US, that often happens in January or February) and can last through the spring. Also, see the [this County News Center story about flu](#).

Be Healthy, San Diego! Get flu vaccine.

More information about flu, flu vaccine and flu immunization is available on the [County Immunization Program website](#).

- **We'll say it again: Health Care Professionals Need Flu Vaccine, Too.**

Health Care Providers, please be sure to take care of yourself and your staff as well as your patients—they need you to stay healthy. Flu vaccine can keep you from getting sick and from spreading illness among your patients, staff and family. Don't let the flu slow you down; Be Healthy; Get Flu Vaccine!

For more information, please visit the [County Immunization Program Flu Page for Health Care Professionals](#). Your patients can visit [County Immunization Program website](#) for flu information tailored for them.

- **[INFLUENZA ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTY](#)**: The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch (EISB), works with the local medical community to summarize influenza activity here in our county. The weekly summary, called Influenza Watch, is available [here](#) or by clicking on the title link above.

- **Flu Shot Myths—Don't Let Them Stop You From Getting Flu Vaccine**

In each Update, for the next few months, we'll feature a common myth about the flu shot, and why it's wrong. Here's one of the most common myths:

**#4: *Save it for those who need it.***

Years ago, flu vaccine used to be recommended mainly for certain groups of people at high risk of complications from flu (such as pneumonia). Those groups included persons with chronic health conditions like heart or lung disease, diabetes or cancer, as well as seniors, pregnant women and young children. But now, flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. Here's Eugene Beronilla of County HHS to explain why (see the County's [Flu Myth web page](#) for more):

"Experience and research has shown that just about everyone 6 months of age and older can benefit from vaccine protection. And there's another important reason for encouraging everyone to get flu vaccine. The more people in a community who are protected, the less likely it is that flu can spread in that community, including to persons who are especially vulnerable to flu-related complications, and to those who for one reason or another can't be vaccinated."



So, who needs flu vaccine? Everyone, including you! If you don't want to get vaccinated to protect your own health, do it for the people around you. As uncles, both my partner and I get flu vaccine to help protect our nieces and nephews from flu."

For more information on flu myths and why they're wrong, visit the County's [Flu Myth page](#). And there's more information about flu and flu vaccine at the [County Immunization Program website](#) for more flu information. Be Healthy, San Diego—Get Flu Vaccine!

## HEALTH CARE PROVIDER NEWS

- **Story: "Whooping Cough Outbreak: How Effective Is the Vaccine?"**

According to an article on the *livescience* website, "An outbreak of whooping cough, or pertussis, at a Florida preschool in which nearly all the students had been fully vaccinated

against the disease, raises new concerns about the vaccine's effectiveness, a new report suggests. During a 5-month period between September 2013 and January 2014, 26 preschoolers, two staff members and 11 family members of the students or staff at the facility in Leon County came down with whooping cough according to a report of the outbreak published today (Jan. 13) in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases. Only five of 117 students attending the preschool had not received all of the shots required by their age. This is the first time a 'sustained transmission of pertussis in a vaccinated group of 1- to 5-year-old children has been reported in the United States,' the report said...Further monitoring of the performance of the pertussis vaccine in preschool-age children is needed to figure out if this Florida outbreak was an isolated incident or possibly an emerging epidemiological trend, the case concluded." Read the full article [here](#).

## RESEARCH NEWS

- **Study: “HPV vaccine uptake is highest among girls in high poverty and majority Hispanic communities”**

According to a story on the Medical Xpress website, "Adolescent girls living in high-poverty communities and majority Hispanic communities were more likely to have received at least one dose of a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine than those living in low-poverty communities and in communities of other racial and ethnic compositions. The study was published in Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research... The researchers also found that the HPV vaccination rates among Hispanic girls differed depending on the racial composition of the community in which the girls lived. About 49 percent of Hispanic girls living in majority non-Hispanic white communities initiated vaccination, whereas approximately 68 percent of Hispanic girls living in majority Hispanic or mixed race communities initiated vaccination." Read the full story [here](#).

## COUNTY PHC IMMUNIZATION CLINICS: ELIGIBILITY

- **Eligibility for Immunizations at County Public Health Centers; Important Information**

The following individuals are eligible to receive immunizations at County Public Health Centers:

- Children and adults who do not have health insurance (adults—only certain vaccines available).
- Adults whose health insurance does not include vaccines (only certain vaccines available).
- Persons 0-18 years who are Alaskan Native or American Indian.
- Persons 0-18 years who have Medi-Cal or are Medi-Cal eligible.
- **Persons 6 months and older in need of influenza (flu) vaccine regardless of health coverage.**



Individuals are not eligible for vaccines if their insurance includes vaccinations, even if there are co-pays or deductibles.

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MONTHLY UPDATE

- **Having a Community Event? Tell Us! Don't forget our SDIC Community Event Calendar:** We are always seeking submissions for the Calendar. Help get the word out about your upcoming event. Please use [this form](#) to submit events (at least 2 weeks before the event).
- **If you have other information to share...**We encourage readers to send in information they think is relevant to immunization and its related issues. Perhaps there's an article in a newspaper, magazine or online. Or information received via email, or from another newsletter. Feel free to email the information (along with a citation) to [harrison.bolter@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:harrison.bolter@sdcounty.ca.gov). Please note that we may have to edit the information for length or relevance.

Note: This update will be sent the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month (or the next business day if the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday). If you have immunization-related news or information you would like to share with your Coalition partners, please send it via email to Harrison Bolter at [harrison.bolter@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:harrison.bolter@sdcounty.ca.gov) no later than the 13<sup>th</sup> of that month. Any information received later than that will be held until the next Update. Thank you!

**County of San Diego Immunization Program**

[www.sdiz.org](http://www.sdiz.org)

*It is not our intention to spam. Please send any unsubscribe requests, as well as corrections or changes to names or email addresses to:*

[harrison.bolter@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:harrison.bolter@sdcounty.ca.gov)



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