



San Diego Immunization Coalition Monthly Update

August 15, 2016

www.sdizcoalition.org

COALITION NOTES

- **NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH CONTINUES.**

During August, the San Diego Immunization Program is asking for your help in promoting this observance, which celebrates the importance of immunizations for all ages, from infants to seniors.

Each week of the Month has a different theme, for a different age group. At mid-month, we have two themes left to go:

Week 3 (Aug. 15-21): A healthy start begins with on-time vaccination—Infants and Children

Week 4 (Aug. 22-28): Ensure a healthy future with vaccines—Preteens and Teens



We'll continue our process of sending out promotional tools including social media messages, e-mail signature lines, web logos, banners and more. And if you haven't already checked out our National Immunization Awareness Month webpage (<http://www.sdiz.org/Community/NIAM2016.html>), please do so. It features information and downloadable resources to help celebrate the Month. You can use the tools and resources to spread the word about the importance of immunizations to your friends, family, co-workers and others in your community.

Your participation helps make National Immunization Awareness Month a success. Thank you for all you do to help promote immunizations and protect the health of our community!

- **School starts soon—are your kids up to date on their immunizations?**

Although it's still summer, it's also time to get ready for the start of school. Several immunizations are required for school entry, so it's very important to make sure your kids have all the shots they need. Check with your children's doctor to find out if they need any immunizations. You can also go to the [California Department of Public Health's Shots For School website](#), for a wealth of helpful information school/child care immunization requirements.

- **School and Child Care Immunization Requirements Laws: What You Need To Know**

- **SB277**, the school immunization requirements law which took effect earlier this year, eliminates personal belief exemptions to school immunization requirements. For complete and up to date information about this law, please visit the [California Department of Public Health's Shots For School website's SB277 page](#).
- **Day Care Facilities Immunization Law (SB792)**, is a new law which will take effect in California Sept. 1, 2016. It requires that employees or volunteers at a day care center or day care home must be immunized against flu, pertussis and measles. Learn more at the [California Department of Health Services Shots for School website's page about this law](#).

- **Diseases make lousy souvenirs**

Summer continues, and vacations are on everyone's mind. And travel immunizations are an important part of staying healthy and enjoying that time off.

Travelers should note this information about flu from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): "Flu is common throughout the world. The flu season lasts from October through May in the Northern Hemisphere and from April through September in the Southern Hemisphere. In tropical countries, flu can be spread year-round." See the CDC's [Travelers' Health page on influenza](#) for more information.

Zika virus may also be a concern for travelers. The CDC has a [Zika Travel Information web page](#) with helpful information and resources.

Don't let vaccine-preventable diseases ruin your summer.

- **Flu Season is Coming**

It may seem like a long way off, but flu season is coming and sooner than you think, it will be time to get flu vaccine. Flu can make people very ill, and for some, it can even be fatal. Flu vaccine is the best way to protect against flu. For the 2016-17 flu season, the vaccine will be given at doctor's offices, pharmacies, Public Health Centers and many other locations throughout the fall and winter months, and later. Look for more information about flu vaccine and flu season to come.



One opportunity to get flu vaccine will be the **San Diego Black Nurses Association's Annual Flu Season Kickoff Event and Community Flu Vaccine Clinic**. This event will offer free flu vaccine for those 18 years and older and is scheduled for late September. More information is coming soon.

- **Kick The Flu Summit 2016**

The San Diego Immunization Coalition's annual Kick The Flu event is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 9 am to 12:30 pm at the San Diego Central Library. Now in its 12th year, the Kick the Flu Summit will convene medical, health, and community service providers from both public and private sectors to share information, collaborate, and strategize about how to promote and increase the rate of flu immunizations throughout San Diego County during the 2016-17 influenza season. Pre-registration is required. [Click here for event and registration information](#).



- **Reminder: the Next SDIC General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 5th.**

The next SDIC General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 5. Starting time is the same, 12:30 pm, and it will be held in the San Diego Room at the HHS Rosecrans Health Services Complex (3851 Rosecrans St., San Diego). Mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER NEWS

- **HPV Vaccine Boosts Immune Memory, Report Finds**

According to an study reported on the online Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center website, "It's long been known that the vaccine against the human papilloma virus offers protection when administered to those who'd never experienced HPV infection. But new research suggests the possibility that it could also help those who'd been previously infected to guard against re-infection, according to results recently published in EBioMedicine. Vaccines are designed to create immunity, also known as immune memory, to keep infection at bay. Researchers at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center have found that the HPV vaccine helps the immune system "remember" the virus better than natural HPV infection itself. A single dose of the vaccine appears to improve immune memory in those previously infected with HPV, raising the possibility that the vaccine could help prevent re-infection. Until now, whether the vaccine could benefit those who had already experienced HPV infection was unknown, said senior author Dr. Denise Galloway, a virologist at Fred Hutch whose work linking HPV to cervical cancer and development of virus-like particles helped pave the way to the vaccine." Read the story [here](#).

RESEARCH NEWS

- **"Rise in HPV-associated cancers among men reflects low vaccination rates"**

According to a study reported on the Healio website, "A federal report released in July showed HPV-associated head and neck cancers are on the rise among men in the United States. An average of 15,738 cases of HPV-associated oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma were diagnosed in the country each year between 2008 and 2012. Of these, approximately 80% were diagnosed in men, according to CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. 'We know that there are about 15 high-risk subtypes of HPV, and that HPV-16 and HPV-18 are responsible for the majority of these [head and neck] cancers,' Lois Ramondetta, MD, professor of gynecologic oncology in the department of gynecologic oncology and reproductive medicine at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, told HemOnc Today. 'By vaccinating our children, we anticipate that more than 28,000 cases of HPV-associated cancers could be prevented annually. Think of all the people in whom we could prevent suffering with this very identifiable change of practice.'" Read the story [here](#).



- **"Vaccination confidence linked with early childhood vaccination behavior"**

Vaccination confidence was closely associated with early childhood vaccination behavior across multiple vaccine types, according to study findings published in PloS One. 'We originally created our [Vaccination Confidence Scale] to assess parental beliefs related to adolescent vaccination, and in a prior validation study, we found that parents' mean Vaccination Confidence Scale scores were consistently associated with vaccine refusal and vaccination status for vaccines in the adolescent platform, including meningococcal and HPV vaccines,' Melissa B. Gilkey, PhD, assistant professor of population medicine at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute, and colleagues wrote. 'This success raises the possibility that a modified version of our scale could be useful for assessing vaccination beliefs related to early childhood vaccines, including measles-mumps-rubella vaccine...' 'These findings suggest that vaccination

confidence may be particularly salient for parents of young children, who are faced with relatively frequent decisions about whether or not to accept vaccinations...' Read the 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. Please note that we may have to edit the information for length or relevance.

Note: This update will be sent the 15th of every month (or the next business day if the 15th 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 no later than the 13th of that month. Any information received later than that will be held until the next Update. Thank you!

County of San Diego Immunization Program

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