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Dear Immunization Provider:

Re: **SUMMER 2014 IMMUNIZATION UPDATE**

The following immunization-related topics are included in the Summer 2014 Immunization Update:

- 2014 – 15 Seasonal Influenza Recommendations
- Pertussis Epidemic
- Tdap Medi-Cal Vaccination Requirement for Prenatal Providers
- Adult Immunizations
- Measles Activity in Los Angeles County

2014 – 15 Seasonal Influenza Recommendations

This month, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) published recommendations for the 2014 – 15 influenza season. As in previous years, ACIP recommends universal influenza (flu) vaccination for all persons aged 6 months and older.

Primary Change and Update to the Previous Recommendations

ACIP's 2014 – 15 influenza season recommendations are consistent with recommendations from the 2013 – 14 influenza season with the following exception.

- **LAIV Recommendations for Children 2 through 8 Years of Age**
Starting this season, ACIP recommends live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) be administered to healthy children aged 2 through 8 years who have no contraindications or precautions to receipt of the vaccine. If LAIV is not immediately available, inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) should be used.

2014 – 15 Influenza Vaccine Strains

The influenza strains contained in the 2014 – 15 U.S. influenza vaccines are identical to the strains contained in the 2013 – 14 vaccines. The trivalent influenza vaccines will contain:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus
- an A/Texas/50/2012 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus

Quadrivalent vaccines will include an additional B virus, B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

This season, as in past flu seasons some children aged 6 months through 8 years of age may need two doses to optimize their immune response to vaccination. The number of doses is dependent upon their previous vaccination history.

If this is the **first** season of flu vaccination for a child 6 months through 8 years of age, the child should receive 2 doses of flu vaccine. However, children aged 6 months through 8 years need only 1 dose of flu vaccine in 2014 – 15 if they have received any of the following:

- 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine **since** July 1, 2010, or
- 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine **before** July 1, 2010 and 1 or more doses of monovalent 2009 (H1N1) vaccine, or
- 1 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine before July 1, 2010, and 1 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010.

Children aged 6 months through 8 years, for whom one of these conditions is not met or for whom flu vaccination history is not available require 2 doses of influenza vaccine administered at least 4 weeks apart during the 2014 – 2015 season.

A complete copy of the 2014 – 15 recommendations can be found at http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/Docs/InfluenzaRecs_2014-2015.pdf.

For additional information on influenza, visit CDC and Immunization Program websites <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> and <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/DiseaseSpecific/Influenza.htm> respectively.

IMMUNIZATION – RELATED UPDATES

Pertussis Epidemic

In June 2014, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) declared a pertussis epidemic in the State of California. As of August, more cases of pertussis have been reported in 2014 than in all of 2013. The number of cases is expected to surpass the number of cases reported during the 2010 pertussis epidemic. Los Angeles County is also experiencing an increase in cases. As of August 18, 2014 Los Angeles County has received over 1200 reports of pertussis cases.

Vaccination continues to be the most safe and effective way to prevent pertussis. Providers are encouraged to vaccinate young infants, children, adolescents, and adults with age appropriate pertussis-containing vaccine to prevent the spread of pertussis. The following are vaccine recommendations for various age groups:

- DTaP vaccine is recommended at: 2 months (**but can be given as early as 6 weeks of age**), 4 months, and 6 months, between 15-18 months of age, and between 4-6 years of age.
- A booster dose of Tdap is recommended for all preteens at 11 or 12 years of age.
- One dose of Tdap vaccine is recommended for all adults, 19 years and older who have not been previously vaccinated with Tdap. It is especially important for any adult (i.e., parents, grandparents, health care personnel, and child care workers) who may have contact with an infant to be vaccinated.
- Pregnant women should receive one dose of Tdap during **each** pregnancy, given at 27 through 36 weeks gestation.

Finally, reporting suspect cases in a timely manner is crucial in preventing the spread of pertussis. Health care providers should report any suspect cases to the Department of Public Health **within 1 working day** by calling 888-397- 3993 or faxing a Confidential Morbidity Reporting Form to 888-397-3778. It is not necessary to wait for laboratory confirmation before reporting. Contact the Public Health Lab (562) 658-1310 or the Immunization Program (213) 351-7800 for questions regarding testing and/or reporting requirements.

For more information on pertussis, including job aids, fact sheets, and patient educational materials visit the Immunization Program website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/DiseaseSpecific/Pertussis.htm>.

Tdap Vaccination Requirement for Prenatal Providers

Beginning August 1, 2014, Medi-Cal policy is aligned with ACIP recommendations for Tdap vaccination. The new policy requires all prenatal providers to implement a Tdap vaccination program for all pregnant women. Health care providers should administer a dose of Tdap during each pregnancy, irrespective of the patient's prior history of receiving Tdap. Tdap should be administered between 27 and 36 weeks gestation to maximize the maternal antibody response and antibody transfer to the infant. More information on the policy update can be found in the July 2014 Medical Pharmacy Bulletin, <http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/bulletins/artfull/ph201407.asp>.

Adult Immunizations and the Affordable Care Act

Adult immunization rates are low and remain well below Healthy People 2020 goals. In January 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was implemented to provide health care to all persons eligible for services. ACA requires coverage of certain ACIP recommended vaccines for adults. As such, health care providers are encouraged to implement practices to improve adult immunization rates.

In April 2014, the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) released new Standards for Adult Immunization Practices to assist providers in implementing new strategies to improve adult immunization rates. The new standards emphasize the need for health care providers to assess the immunization status of adult patients, recommend needed vaccines, and offer vaccines if available to ensure all adults are fully immunized.

The following resources are available on the CDC website:

- Standards for Adult Immunization Practices:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/adults/for-practice/standards/index.html>
- Adult Immunization Schedule:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/adults/for-practice/adult-recommendations.html>
- Strategies for Increasing Adult Vaccination Rates:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/adults/for-practice/increasing-vacc-rates.html>
- Resources for Adult Vaccination Insurance and Payment
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/adults/for-practice/insurance-payment.html>
- Educational Materials:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/adults/for-patients/index.html>

Measles Activity in Los Angeles County

Earlier this year, Los Angeles County and other surrounding Counties reported an increase in number of measles cases. Measles is highly contagious. Health care providers are encouraged to consider measles for persons presenting with a fever and rash illness. If measles is suspected, isolate the suspect case and report immediately. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation to report.

Measles vaccination is routinely recommended for young children beginning at 12 months of age. A second dose should be administered at 4 years of age before entering kindergarten. ACIP recommends that infants 6 through 11 months of age traveling internationally receive 1 dose of MMR prior to departure. Infants who received a dose of MMR prior to 12 months of age should be revaccinated on or after their first birthday with 2 doses of MMR at least 28 days apart. However, the second revaccination (or 3rd overall) dose can be given at 4 years of age before entering kindergarten. Adolescents and adults who have never been vaccinated or who are not immune should receive two doses of MMR at least 28 days apart.

For more information on measles, including reporting requirements, screening, and educational materials visit the Immunization Program website at:

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/DiseaseSpecific/Measles.htm>.

Additional information can be found on the CDC website at

<http://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html>.

Please forward this update to the appropriate staff in your organization. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact our main office at (213) 351-7800 or visit our website at:

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip.

Sincerely,



A Nelson El Amin, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director

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