

# Monthly Immunization Update

May 2025

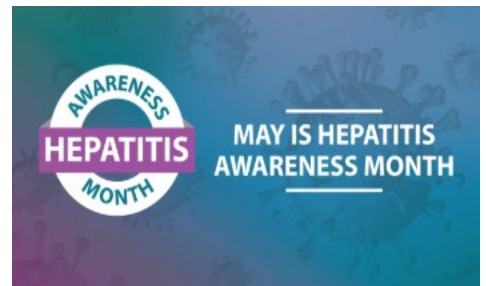
Dear Schools and partners,

The purpose of this newsletter is to deliver quick and meaningful updates to support our schools and partners 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 all of your colleagues. Thank you!

## Hepatitis Awareness Month

May is Hepatitis Awareness Month. This observance serves as a time to raise awareness about hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C while encouraging testing, vaccination, and timely treatment. Viral hepatitis is a major public health threat and worse, hundreds of thousands of people in the United States don't know they are infected. Work with us to remind everyone that hepatitis A and hepatitis B can be prevented, and hepatitis C can be cured. [About Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month](#) | [Viral Hepatitis Awareness](#) | [CDC](#)

The month-long observance includes [Hepatitis Testing Day](#) on May 19th. These observances are important opportunities to raise widespread awareness of viral hepatitis and its impact in the U.S. and expand our coordinated national efforts to improve the health of the estimated 862,000 people.



### Hepatitis B and hepatitis C

Many people with hepatitis B virus won't experience symptoms and likewise, many people with hepatitis C don't look or feel sick. In either case they might not know they have the virus. Left untreated, both infections can cause serious health problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer, and even death. Getting tested is the only way to know you have either virus.

Although there is no cure for hepatitis B, treatments are available that can delay or reduce the risk of developing liver cancer.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C, but curative treatments are available. Most people with hepatitis C can be cured with just 8–12 weeks of well-tolerated oral-only treatment. Testing is the first step.

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Educate your patients by highlighting the importance of:

- **Reaching key populations and high-impact settings:** Increasing access to vaccination, testing, and treatment to key populations and settings can prevent the spread of viral hepatitis.
- **Protecting young families and pregnant women:** CDC recommends screening all pregnant patients for hepatitis B and hepatitis C.
- **Accelerating hepatitis C point-of-care testing** to expand test-to-cure: Hepatitis C is a deadly disease. Point of care testing can build the bridge to life-saving treatment. For more information visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage](#).

## May is Mental health Month

May is designated as Mental Health Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness about mental health, reducing stigma, and promoting mental wellness. [Mental Health Month | Mental Health America](#)



## Common Questions and Answers About Vaccines

### Do vaccines provide better immunity than natural infection?

Vaccines stimulate the immune system to develop protection similar to that produced by the natural infection, but do not cause the disease or put the immunized person at risk of its protentional complications related to that infection.

### Shouldn't vaccines be delayed until children are older and there is less risk of side effects?

There is no evidence that side effects are more common in infants/babies than in older children. Delaying vaccines leaves young children at risk of the disease and its complications.

### How do we know vaccines are safe?

Every vaccine needs to go through extensive and rigorous testing before it can be introduced in a country. Once they are in use, they must be continuously monitored to make sure they are safe for the people who receive them.



Ventura County Public Health Immunization Program

Email: [immunization.program@ventura.org](mailto:immunization.program@ventura.org)

Phone: (805)981-5211

Fax: (805)981-5210



We are on the web!

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

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