



# Monthly Immunization Update

February 2026

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 !

## Updates and Statement from CDPH

Following the most recent pronouncement from leadership at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on January 5, the California Department of Public Health and organizations across the country have weighed in with support for the current **American Academy of Pediatrics 2025 Immunization Schedule** and support for using research, science and evidence to guide professional recommendations for vaccination.

California and American Academy of Pediatrics-recommended vaccines will continue to be covered by health plans and insurers regulated by the State of California. Vaccines can be received at no cost from your doctor, some local pharmacies, or other authorized providers.

Find full statement here: [Joint Statement from California Health and Human Services Leaders on Vaccine Access and Availability](#)

Vaccine and other immunizing agents	Birth	1 mo	2 mo	4 mo	6 mo	9 mo	12 mo	15 mo	18 mo	19-24 mo	2-5 yrs	6-8 yrs	9-12 yrs	13-15 yrs	16 yrs	17-18 yrs
Poliovirus (oral live-attenuated IPV) (or inactivated IPV)	1 dose (oral live-attenuated IPV)	2nd dose	3rd dose													
Hepatitis B (HepB)	1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose													
Rotavirus (RV) (2-dose series)	1st dose	2nd dose														
Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (DTaP/DTaP-IPV)	1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose	4th dose	5th dose											
Human papillomavirus (HPV)																
Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)																
Varicella (VAR)																
Hepatitis A (HepA)																
Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap/DTaP)																
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## American Heart Month

February is American Heart Month, a time for people to focus on their cardiovascular health. Every year, thousands of people with heart or vascular disease experience serious complications from vaccine-preventable infections. You can help protect your heart and health through vaccination. Vaccines of particular importance for people with heart disease include:

- COVID-19
- Influenza
- Pneumococcal
- RSV (If age 60 years or older)



## What's the difference between "Required" and "Recommended" immunizations?

Some, but not all *recommended* childhood vaccines are *required* by California law and regulations in order to attend school. Under the California School Immunization Law (California Health and Safety Code, Sections 120325-120375), to protect the public's health, children are required to receive certain immunizations in order to attend public and private elementary and secondary schools, child care centers, family day care homes, nursery schools, day nurseries and developmental centers.

Grade	Number of Doses Required of Each Immunization <sup>1,2,3</sup>				
K-12 Admission	4 Polio <sup>4</sup>	5 DTaP <sup>5</sup>	3 Hep B <sup>6</sup>	2 MMR <sup>7</sup>	2 Varicella
(7th-12th) <sup>8</sup>	K-12 doses + 1 Tdap				
7th Grade Advancement <sup>9,10</sup>	1 Tdap <sup>9</sup>				

Not all *recommended* immunizations are required for school, but it is still important that children receive all of them. Talk to your doctor about other recommended vaccines, including flu vaccine every year.

### What is the "recommended" immunization schedule?

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [recommended schedule](#) lists the age or age range when each vaccine or series of shots is recommended.

For more information please visit the Shots for [School webpage](#).

## It's Not Too Late! Act Now to Protect the Kids You Care for from Serious Illness.

[Flu and RSV are on the rise in California](#). Babies and toddlers are especially vulnerable to respiratory illnesses, and need protection against [flu](#), [RSV](#) (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), and [COVID-19](#). **It's not too late to prevent serious complications from these illnesses by getting [immunized](#).**

[All CDPH and American Academy of Pediatrics-recommended vaccines are covered by California-regulated health plans and insurers](#) despite recent changes announced by the federal government.



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We are on the web!

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

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