



Monthly Immunization Update

March 2026

Dear Providers and Partners,

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

What You Need to Know About Routine Immunizations

The West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) and CDPH recommend that parents continue to follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) immunization schedule for children and teens. Read the full [news release](#).

- **Recent CDC changes (As of 1/5/2026):** A new CDC decision reduces recommended vaccines but did not follow standard safety review and could increase preventable diseases.
- **Why it matters:** Skipping vaccines can lead to more sickness, missed school, and even severe sickness leading to hospitalizations and death in some children.
- **AAP schedule is evidence-based:** It considers when vaccines work best, safety, disease risk in the U.S. and access to care.
- **Insurance coverage:** Vaccines recommended as of December 31, 2025, remain covered by public and private insurance.
- **Stay informed:** Parents should discuss vaccine decisions with their child's healthcare provider.
- **Our commitment:** CDPH, WCHA and AAP continue to support proven vaccine recommendations to protect children.

Talking with Parents about Vaccines

Why it matters:

Doctors, nurses, physician assistants, and office staff all play a key role in establishing and maintaining a practice-wide commitment to communicating effectively about vaccines and maintaining high vaccination rates.

Parents consider their child's healthcare professionals to be their most trusted source of information when it comes to vaccines. This is true even for parents who are vaccine-hesitant or who consider delaying one or more vaccines. You have a critical role in helping parents choose vaccines for their child.

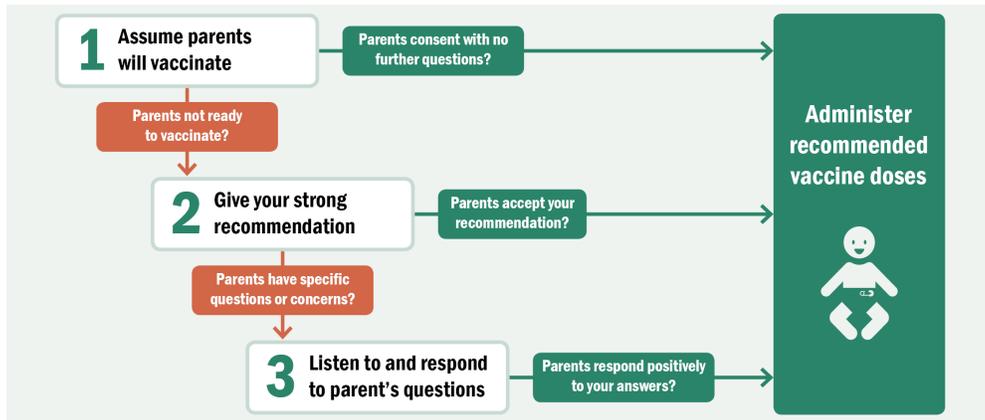
Conversation strategies:

With all you do, you may feel that long vaccine conversations are stressful when you also need to check physical and cognitive milestones and have a full schedule of patients.

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Vaccine conversations can also be uncomfortable in some situations. You can use these communication strategies and tips to effectively address questions you may hear from parents, including parents who choose not to vaccinate.



This flow chart shows three easy steps to take when talking with parents about vaccines.

For more information please click [here](#).

Vaccine Shipment Cooler Returns

Vaccine doses should never be returned to the manufacturers unless they are spoiled or expired. These are the two types of qualified coolers currently being used for vaccine shipments. Please note the following:

- **EcoFlex96:** Used for all frozen and most medium, large, and extra-large refrigerated shipments.
- **KoolTemp:** Used for most small, refrigerated shipments.



Adolescent Immunization Action Week 2026 Approaching

Adolescent Immunization Action Week, April 6-10, 2026, is approaching plan ahead for a healthy school year. Ensure your clinic runs smoothly and avoid the back-to-school rush by scheduling vaccination visits early. With so much public attention on vaccines, your voice matters more than ever. Parents consistently report that their child's healthcare provider is their most trusted source of vaccine information. Every clear, confident recommendation helps keep communities healthy and reinforces trust in immunization.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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

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