

## **RECOMMENDATIONS DURING COVID-19**



### **IMPROVING CHILD IMMUNIZATIONS (PART 1)**

outine vaccination is an essential preventive care service for children, adolescents, and adults (including pregnant women) that should not be delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

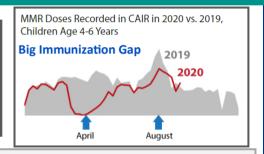
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

### A REMINDER OF RESOURCES TO INCREASE ADULT IMMUNIZATION



Immunization rates in California have dropped precipitously during the COVID-19 pandemic, raising alarm bells for the health and safety of our children, patients and family.

California Immunization Coalition



# Health Plans and Providers:

**Engaging Parents** 





- ▶ Watch case <u>testimonials</u> by parents on how vaccination can impact lives (e.g., <u>Rory's story</u>, <u>Hailey's story</u>; <u>the story of three families</u>, etc.); use information snippets as voice mail message script.
- Watch <u>featured videos</u> by CDC on effective strategies for recommending childhood immunizations to parents of young children. Use <u>resources</u> that can be shared with parents.
- Use <u>communication tips</u> in addressing vaccination questions from parents that come in printable handouts including <u>scripts</u> on structuring effective <u>communication strategies</u> around vaccines.

#### **Providers:**

Mobilizing Vaccination Efforts



- ▶ Ensure health workers in other areas (e.g., prenatal, post-natal, primary care) check vaccination status at any clinical service and vaccinate or refer to immunization clinic.
- ▶ <u>Allow catch-up immunization visits</u> and implement the <u>WHO guidance</u> that outlines considerations for prioritizing strategies for restarting immunization and vaccine catch-up strategies.
- ▶ Use CAIR status reports at each essential childhood clinic visit. Use reminder/recall systems to bring back patients that may have deferred routine visits during COVID-19.

# Health Plans and Providers:

Messaging for Targeted Member Groups

- ▶ Use the San Diego <u>Pediatric Provider Toolkit</u> and the California <u>#DontWaitVaccinate Campaign</u> (Toolkit) for various <u>messaging approaches</u> to parents, adolescents, adults and pregnant women.
- Adapt <u>sample media/twitter posts</u> on <u>social media</u> platforms regarding the benefits of vaccination for children and adolescents.
- Mail the childhood immunization schedule to members who are in their third trimester of pregnancy.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS DURING COVID-19**



### **IMPROVING ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS (PART 2)**

outine vaccination is an essential preventive care service for children, adolescents, and adults (including pregnant women) that should not be delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

### A REMINDER OF RESOURCES TO INCREASE ADULT IMMUNIZATION

A moderately severe influenza season in the presence of circulating SARS-CoV-2 would significantly amplify

cases of acute respiratory illness. <u>Less</u> <u>than half</u> of US adults received influenza vaccine in 2018-2019.

Vaccine Doses, Patients 19 years and older, Submitted to the California Immunization Registry January-September 2019 & January-September 2020





## **Providers:**Addressing Flu

Addressing Flu Vaccine Hesitancy



- See <u>#HowIRecommend</u> videos for strategies to make effective recommendation and address immunization questions including flu vaccine hesitancy. <u>Infographics</u> in multiple languages.
- ▶ Refer to CDC <u>study</u>, published August 25, 2020, linking sudden heart complications called "acute cardiac events", common in adults hospitalized with flu (<u>infographic</u>).
- ▶ Watch case <u>testimonials</u> on the importance of immunizations (e.g., <u>Influenza</u>, <u>pneumococcal</u>, etc.).
- ▶ Be a role model and take the vaccine (<u>infographic</u>). Use top <u>flu strategies</u> gathered from providers.

#### **Providers:**

Mobilizing Vaccination Efforts



- ▶ Partner with <u>pharmacists</u> as essential access points for vaccination services in the community.
- Utilize mobile vaccination vans out in the community and/or pop-up tent clinics in parking lots.
- Use on-hold flu messages when the member calls the provider's office.
- Use <u>standing order</u> templates to streamline practice workflows in clinics.

## Health Plans and Providers:

Messaging for Targeted Member Groups

- ▶ Use targeted <u>communication campaigns</u> for different segments and hard to reach populations (e.g., elderly, pregnant women, special health conditions, etc.).
- Essential key messages regarding the importance of <u>immunizations to pregnant women</u>.
- Engage key community influencers regarding the benefits of vaccination. Adapt <u>sample media/</u> twitter posts on social media platforms.
- Pop-up announcements on immunization campaigns via the health plan website.