



SAN DIEGO COUNTY
MEDICAL SOCIETY

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO VACCINATE: GIVE FLU SHOTS!



IDENTIFY YOUR HIGH RISK PATIENTS

Health care providers are encouraged to continue vaccinating their patients who are eligible for flu vaccinations. All of the following people are at risk for complications from influenza and should be immunized now if the person failed to get the vaccine earlier:

- Persons aged 50 years old or older
- Children 6–23 months
- Adults and children with heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, lung disease (including asthma), anemias, cancer, HIV/AIDS, and other conditions that result in an impaired immune system.
- Women who will be more than 3 months pregnant during the flu season
- Children and teens on long-term aspirin therapy
- Household contacts or caregivers of people at high risk or children under 2 years of age
- Health care workers

IF YOU DON'T HAVE VACCINE, SEND THE PATIENT TO SOMEONE WHO DOES!

FLU UPDATE: DR. RICHARD BROWN, KAISER PERMANENTE

According to Dr. Richard Brown from Kaiser Permanente, as of January 17, "Sporadic influenza activity continues to be reported throughout California in the past week, similar to what we've seen through mid-January in the past two years. The percentage of hospital admissions and clinic visits to CDC Sentinel Physicians for flu-like illnesses throughout California remains at baseline. A total of 13 influenza detections were reported to the State Department of Health Services last week, including three from San Diego County. Influenza A appears to be predominant so far this year."

VACCINE EXCHANGE

Providers who have excess influenza or pneumococcal vaccine may use the CHIP Vaccine Exchange to inform other providers in the community. Please contact Tracy Danos, CHIP Adult Immunization Coordinator, at (619) 515-2858 for more details.

IF YOU NEED OF MORE VACCINE

If providers need more vaccine, they should contact their regular sources or visit the CHIP website at www.sdchip.org — click the "No Flu" icon and select "Vaccine Exchange."

PNEUMOCOCCAL AND TETANUS-DIPHTHERIA VACCINES

Don't forget to immunize your patients against pneumococcal diseases — especially pneumonia — and against both tetanus and diphtheria. Pneumococcal vaccine may be given at any time of the year and, for most seniors, is needed only once in a lifetime. Tetanus-diphtheria vaccine is given to all adults every ten years throughout their life. Review your patient's records and make sure they are up-to-date!

RESOURCES

The San Diego County Immunization Initiative (I3) has a website containing information for providers. Visit I3's website at www.immunization-sd.org. Health-care providers may also check the CHIP website for immunization information at www.sdchip.org.

**CONTACT TRACY DANOS AT (619) 515-2858 (COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS)
FOR INFORMATION ON VACCINE AVAILABILITY AND BEST PRACTICE OFFICE TIPS.**