SEPTEMBER 2022

Fall Immunizations Provide Winter Protection

The winter months are around the corner, and an uptick in various illness, Influenza (Flu), and COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is to be expected. Residents are encouraged to protect their families this winter by becoming vaccinated and protected, and ensuring that kids are up-to-date on their required immunizations.



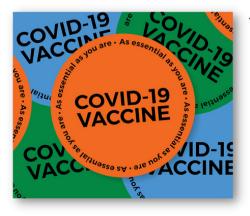
SEPTEMBER 2022

COVID-19 Vaccines and Boosters

Any Californian aged six months and older can get vaccinated for COVID-19 at no cost, regardless of immigration or insurance status.

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19. You can still get COVID-19 after vaccination, but your symptoms are likely to be much less severe. Vaccination helps you avoid hospitalization and death.

In late August, Pfizer completed a submission to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requesting Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of a booster dose of an Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 12 years of age and older. Once the FDA approves the EUA, the vaccine will go before the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, and finally the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for review and approval. Mono County will not be administering this booster until it has been approved by each of the aforementioned bodies; however, local pharmacies and/or your healthcare provider may be able to provide you with the Omicron-adapted booster at an earlier date.



What we know:

- COVID-19 vaccines can prevent most COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths;
- COVID-19 vaccines are effective against many variants of the virus; and,
- People with weakened immune systems may not be protected even if vaccinated.

CDPH's MyTurn portal for COVID-19 vaccine registration can be accessed <u>here</u>.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Flu Vaccines

Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death. Similar to wearing a mask, the flu vaccine protects the immunized person, as well as the people around them. Flu vaccination is part of a comprehensive public health strategy to reduce the burden of flu, and also to preserve health care resources for the care of patients with COVID-19.

Getting a flu vaccine will:

- Help keep you and your loved ones out of the hospital.
- Help save medical resources to care for COVID-19 patients.
- Protect frontline healthcare workers who will be caring for people sick with respiratory illnesses this fall and winter.

Flu vaccine benefits include:

- Flu vaccine has been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death by about 1/2.
- If you get a flu vaccine, you are less likely to get flu and need to go to a doctor's office, urgent care, or emergency room.
- If you get a flu vaccine you are less likely to be hospitalized or to die from flu.
- Flu vaccination is an important preventative tool for people with chronic health conditions, including lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, neurological conditions, and weakened immune systems.
- Flu vaccine decreases the severity of illness in individuals who get vaccinated, but still get sick.

The CDC's benefits of flu vaccination can be accessed <u>here</u>.

Contact your primary care physician to schedule your flu vaccine, or call Mono County Public Health at (760) 924-1830.



SEPTEMBER 2022

Back-To-School Immunizations

Getting all of the recommended vaccines is one of the most important things a parent can do to protect their child's health, especially when they are in a setting like a school or a child care center where disease outbreaks can occur. Whether it's a baby starting at a new child care facility, a toddler heading to preschool, a student going back to elementary, middle or high school – or even a college freshman – parents should check their child's vaccine records.

California schools are required to check immunization records for all new student admissions at Transitional Kindergarten (TK)/Kindergarten (K) through 12th grade, and all students advancing to 7th grade before entry. Parents are required to show their child's Immunization Record as proof of immunization.

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.

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 getting the flu vaccine every year.

The California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) list of required immunizations for TK-12 and 7th Grade can be accessed <u>here</u>.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Back-To-School Immunizations

What is the "recommended" immunization schedule?

The recommended schedule lists the age or age range when each vaccine or series of shots is recommended. The pediatric immunization recommendations in the United States are developed by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), typically in coordination with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended immunization schedule (for ages 18 years or younger) can be accessed <u>here</u>.

