



## Resource Page for Medical Professionals

### Importance of Routine Vaccines During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) has released Alameda County [Health Advisory Resumption of Non-Urgent Health Care Services in Alameda County](#) – As Alameda County continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, providers and facilities are encouraged to gradually resume their full scope of services when possible and safe to do so, based on California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) guidance.

**ROUTINE IMMUNIZATIONS SHOULD BE RESUMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, in order to prevent unnecessary illness or outbreaks of preventable disease. Health care provider practices should identify strategies to accomplish routine immunizations, for both children and adults, that promote social distancing and reduce or eliminate the need for children and families to congregate in waiting rooms.

#### Key Points:

1. It is important that childhood immunization services are provided to prevent the resurgence of vaccine preventable infectious diseases and associated morbidity and mortality.
2. [Childhood immunization rates](#) across the USA between January 2020 and April 2020 have plummeted according to CDC, since COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions on non-essential medical services were ordered in March 2020. California has seen a 40% drop in vaccinations during April 2020 compared to the number of vaccinations during April 2019 reported by CDPH [Staying Safe & Getting Vaccinated During the Pandemic](#).
3. Medical providers are now urged to prioritize appointments with families to vaccinate children who have missed scheduled immunizations or whose immunizations have been delayed due to COVID-19, to bring them up to date as safely and quickly as possible.
4. Safely immunizing children and pregnant women remains a priority during the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. If your practice can only offer a limited number of well-child visits, immunization of infants and children up to 24 months of age should be prioritized.
  - On March 24, 2020, [CDC posted guidance](#) emphasizing the importance of routine well-child care and immunization, particularly for children  $\leq 24$  months of age, when many childhood vaccines are recommended.
6. Guidance on continuing immunizations in children, adolescents and adults during a pandemic has recently been released by the following organizations: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#); [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#), and [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#).



**Additional Resources for Medical Providers:**

*Vaccination During the COVID-19 Pandemic*

- Recommendations for safely vaccinating [adults](#) and [children](#) during COVID-19 (Center for Disease Control (CDC))
- [Critical Updates on COVID-19](#) (AAP)
- [COVID-19: An ACP Physician's Guide and Resources](#) (ACP)
- [Guidance for Family Physicians on Preventive and Non-Urgent Care](#) (AAFP)
- [Clinical Guidance During COVID-19](#) (ACOG)
- [Free Immunization Resource Materials from Alameda County](#)

**Resources for Parents and Caregivers:**

- CDPH [Staying Safe & Getting Vaccinated During the Pandemic](#) May 18, 2020
- CDC Infographic for Parents: [Schedule of Vaccines for 0 to 6 Years of Age](#)
- CDC Infographic for Parents: [Schedule of Vaccines for 7 to 18 Years of Age](#)

*Prevent a Measles Outbreak: Measles can Spread Quickly Among Unvaccinated Children and is Deadly*

- [Measles: It isn't Just a Little Rash Infographic](#)

**Spanish Language Resources for Parents and Caregivers:**

- [Measles: It isn't Just a Little Rash Infographic](#)
  - [Top 4 Things Parents Need to Know About Measles](#)
  - CDC Infographic for Parents: [Schedule of Vaccines for 0 to 6 Years of Age](#)
  - CDC Infographic for Parents: [Schedule of Vaccines for 7 to 18 Years of Age](#)
-