

# Department of Public Health Communicable Disease Section

Quarterly Newsletter  
April 2018

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## Immunization Observances

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) and Toddler Immunization Month (TIM) are annual observances that highlight the importance of routine immunizations for children two years of age or younger. This year, NIIW is observed April 21-28 and TIM is observed throughout the month of May.

Administering recommended immunizations protects infants and children from life-threatening diseases early in life. Immunizations have drastically reduced infant death and disabilities caused by vaccine preventable diseases in the United States. Since 1994, NIIW has served as a call to action for parents, caregivers, and healthcare providers to ensure that infants are fully immunized against 14 vaccine preventable diseases, including influenza.

The increase in pertussis cases and outbreaks reported in 2010 and 2014, exemplifies the need for continued immunization efforts. In 2010, California Department of Public Health reported over 9,000 cases of pertussis including 10 infant deaths in California. This was the highest number of cases reported in over 60 years. In 2014, another pertussis outbreak occurred with a total of 10,381 cases, two infant

fatalities and several hospitalizations. Based on observations of prior peak incidences an outbreak occurs every 3-5 years. With the previous outbreak in 2014 and the current increase of pertussis cases another outbreak is expected this year or in 2019. Therefore, medical providers are encouraged to continue providing immunizations to everyone; infants, children, teens and adults.

In 2016, children under four years of age accounted for the majority of pertussis cases in San Bernardino County. As a reminder, infants may receive their first dose of diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) as early as six weeks of age. Infants who are too young to receive DTaP are the most vulnerable but can receive protection through maternal antibodies. Pregnant women should be immunized during the third trimester of every pregnancy to protect their unborn baby.

For more information regarding immunizations contact a Health Education Specialist at 1-800-722-4794.



## Quick Facts

- ◆ Cases of congenital syphilis (CS) continue to increase in San Bernardino County.
  - ⇒ 2015– four cases of CS
  - ⇒ 2016– 20 cases of CS
  - ⇒ 2017– 31 cases of CS
- ◆ Among children born during 1994-2016, vaccination will prevent an estimated 381 million illnesses, 24.5 million hospitalizations, and 855,000 deaths over the course of their life- times.
- ◆ Preventing mosquito bites is the most effective way to avoid getting sick from viruses spread by mosquitoes.
- ◆ Individuals infected with syphilis, gonorrhea and herpes are more likely to become infected with HIV.



## 2018 Immunization/ TB/ STD/ Epidemiology Update

**April 24: Hesperia & May 9th: Rialto**

The County welcomes you to attend this free seminar to learn information about new changes and pertinent information about communicable diseases.

### Topics Include:

- ◆ 2018 ACIP Immunizations
- ◆ California School Law
- ◆ California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program & California Immunization Registry (CAIR)
- ◆ TB Overview
- ◆ STD and Communicable Disease Overviews

To register call 1-800-722-4794 and ask to speak with a Health Education Specialist or email

**Heather.Griffis@dph.sbcounty.gov**  
or  
**Ashley.Diaz@dph.sbcounty.gov**

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider #CEP-14226, for 4 contact hours.

## STD Awareness Month - April

San Bernardino County has one of the highest rates of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). Treat Me Right, is the message for 2018 STD awareness month. This year the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages providers to create a trusting patient provider relationship and commit to adequately diagnosing and treating patients. Building trust with patients will increase communication in all aspects of health including sexual history.

Cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis are at an all-time high. STDs are occurring in high rates among young people, making this population vulnerable to HIV infection, infertility, ocular and neurosyphilis, and multi-drug resistant gonorrhea. Exposure to syphilis in pregnancy can lead to stillbirth and deformities from congenital syphilis. As a provider, you have great influence in decreasing these dangerous trends.

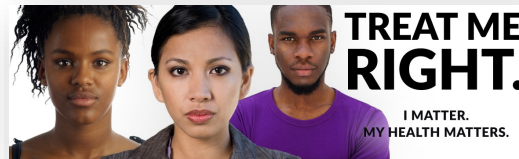
It is important to be aware of patients who are at greater risk for STDs such as: young people ages 15- 24, gay and bisexual men, and pregnant women. Incorporating a thorough sexual history during patient visits will be effective in preventing STDs and providing diagnoses and treatment.

Encouraging patients to learn about STDs and STD prevention, will empower them to ask their provider about what they can do to stay safe and healthy.

County residents can decrease their chances of exposure to STDs by:

- Using condoms consistently and correctly
- Acknowledging that use of drugs and alcohol increases their risk of unprotected sex
- Communicating with their sexual partner(s) about getting tested for STDs

CDC offers great resources to ease the conversation with patients. For tips on how to have a successful conversations with patients about their sexual health please visit the CDC page, [Provider: What you do matters.](#)



## Tips For Travelers



In 2017, San Bernardino County reported diseases associated with travel such as chikungunya, dengue and zika. With this in mind, medical providers are encouraged to make health recommendations regarding patient travel plans.

Health issues such as: disease outbreaks, natural disasters, or other conditions affecting travelers' health are of particular concern.

Helpful tips for travelers:

- Prepare a travel health kit including;

prescription and over-the-counter medication, insect repellent, sunscreen, alcohol-based hand sanitizer and condoms.

- Research health notices on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [travelers' health website.](#)
- Register with the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program.](#)
- Get recommended travel vaccines.

For more information on destination-specific security click on the travelers' health notices and Smart Traveler Enrollment Program link.

Confidential Morbidity Reports (CMRs) can be found on our website, <http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/>, and should be faxed to: (909) 387-6377. For HIV CMRs call before faxing. To report suspect or confirmed cases of TB to the Tuberculosis Control Program, please fill out a [TB case/suspect form](#), for your hospitalized or clinic patient and fax to: (909) 387-6377. Follow-up with a phone call to one of our TB nurses at: 1-800-722-4794.

## Communicable Disease Section

351 N. Mountain View Ave. #104 | San Bernardino, CA 92415

Phone: 1(800) 722-4794 | Fax: (909) 387-6377 | <http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/>



**April**  
STD Awareness Month

**April 19**  
Infectious Disease Conference for Prenatal and Pediatric Providers: Palm Springs and Loma Linda  
[www.cce.csus.edu/InlandEmpireIDC](http://www.cce.csus.edu/InlandEmpireIDC)

**April 21-28**  
National Infant Immunization Week

**April 24**  
2018 Immunization/TB/STD/ Epidemiology Update: Hesperia

**April 26**  
[Community STD Task Force Meeting:](#) San Bernardino

**May**  
Toddler Immunization Month

**May 9**  
2018 Immunization/TB/STD/ Epidemiology Update: Rialto



**April 11– Training is full**

**Immunizations Skills Institute** is a free innovative course that will train medical assistants on current, effective and caring immunization techniques.

For registration information contact a Health Education Specialist at:

1-800-722-4794

