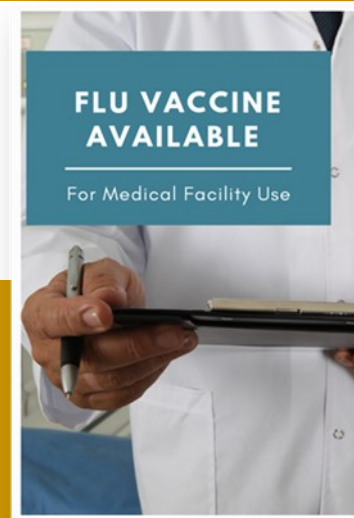




Public Health  
Communicable Disease Section



### Influenza Season is Now

Influenza seasons are unpredictable and can begin as early as October and last until March. It is recommended for individuals six months of age and older to get a flu shot as soon as the vaccine is available. People at high risk of developing flu-related complications include: children younger than 5, adults 65 years and older, pregnant women and residents of nursing homes or long-term care facilities.

The best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated each year. It takes approximately two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body to protect against the flu virus, so it is important to get vaccinated early in the fall, before flu season begins.

Below is a list of free flu clinic locations hosted by San Bernardino County Preparedness & Response Program.

Name and Location	Date and Time
<b>The Ontario Center School</b> 835 North Center Avenue, Ontario, CA 91730	<b>Thursday, November 1, 2018</b> Clinic hours: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
<b>29 Palms Senior Center</b> 6539 Adobe Road, Twenty-nine Palms, CA 92277	<b>Saturday, November 10, 2018</b> Clinic hours: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
<b>Hook Community Center</b> 14973 Joshua Street, Victorville, CA 92394	<b>Saturday, November 17, 2018</b> Clinic hours: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

### Congenital Syphilis Cases Continue to Rise

Congenital syphilis increased 44 percent nationwide, with 30 percent of those cases being California residents. Prenatal care is crucial at every pregnancy. Without early and regular prenatal care, a pregnant woman may not know that their baby is at risk for congenital syphilis.

In California, it is required by law for pregnant women to get tested for syphilis at their first prenatal visit. Syphilis testing should be repeated during the third trimester (28-32 weeks gestational age)

and at delivery in women who are at high risk or live in areas with high rates of syphilis.

Congenital syphilis can cause severe illness in babies including premature birth, low birth weight, birth defects, blindness, and hearing loss. It may also lead to stillbirth and infant death.

For information on STD Clinical Guidelines click on [STD Treatment Recommendations in Pregnancy 2017](#) offered through the California Department of Public Health.

State—Purchased Flu Vaccine is available at **NO COST** for medical providers who meet the following guidelines:

- Non profit or local government agency.
- Serve uninsured or underinsured individuals.
- Follow proper vaccine storage and handling requirements.

If your facility meets the guidelines you may be eligible to receive State - Purchased flu vaccine for the 2018-2019 flu season!

For more information contact a Health Education Specialist at (800) 722-4794 .

Find us on Social Media:



## West Nile Virus

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne disease first detected in the United States in 1999. San Bernardino County Department of Public Health has confirmed its first locally-acquired human case of WNV illness in the High Desert since 2013.

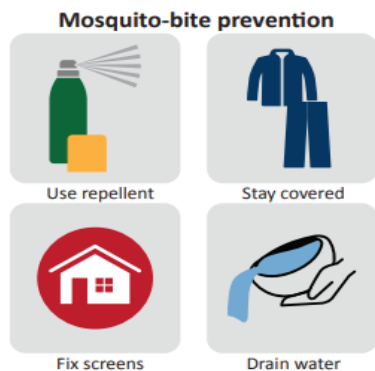
People 60 years of age and older and individuals with diabetes or hypertension have a higher chance of getting sick, and are more likely to develop complications due to WNV.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends individuals protect themselves against mosquito bites and WNV by practicing the "Three Ds":

- DEET – Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 according to label instructions. Do not use on children under two months of age.
- DAWN AND DUSK – When outdoors, wear proper clothing and repellent to

reduce the risk of getting bit. Make sure all doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.

- DRAIN – Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property where mosquitoes lay eggs. Empty flower pots, old car tires, buckets, and other containers. Report green or neglected pools by contacting your local mosquito and vector control agency at 1-800-442-2283.



## Pertussis

Pertussis, (also known as whooping cough) is a highly contagious respiratory disease that can affect individuals of all ages, but can be very serious for infants less than a year old.

According to previous trends, pertussis outbreaks tend to occur every three to five years and one is expected by the end of 2018 or in 2019. As of October 23, 2018, San Bernardino County has reported 24 cases of pertussis including one death of an infant less than six months of age.

Infants too young for vaccination are at greatest risk for life-threatening cases of pertussis. Therefore, pregnant women are encouraged to receive Tdap at the earliest opportunity between 27 and 36 weeks gestation of every pregnancy. Pertussis antibodies transferred from vaccinated

mothers to their infants will provide protection until the DTaP vaccine series can be started, as early as 6 weeks of age. Even one dose of DTaP may offer some protection against pertussis and should not be delayed.

To avoid the spread of pertussis, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends the following:

- Vaccinate pregnant women at **every pregnancy between 27-36 weeks**.
- Vaccinate infants as soon as possible.
- Vaccinate all 7th grade students.
- Vaccinate adults who may have contact with infants and/or healthcare workers who may have contact with infants.

For more information contact the Communicable Disease Section at (800) 722-4794.

# News

**October 24**

World Polio Day

**November 8**

Inland Empire Immunization Coalition General Meeting: San Bernardino

**December 1**

World AIDS Day



**Immunization Skills Institute** is a free innovative course that provides training to medical assistants on current, effective and caring immunization techniques.

For registration information contact a Health Education Specialist at: (800) 722-4794.

**Next training  
January 2019!**

Click on the following link to access the [Confidential Morbidity Reports \(CMRs\)](#). Fax completed CMRs to: (909) 387-6377. For **HIV CMRs call 1.800.722.4794 before faxing.**

To report suspect or confirmed cases of TB, complete a [TB case/suspect form](#), and fax the form to the Tuberculosis Control Program at (909) 387-6377. After faxing, follow-up with a phone call to one of the 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/programs/cds/>