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Dear Perinatal and Pediatrics Providers in San Francisco:

Re: Protecting Young Infants from Pertussis and Influenza

Both the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) concur with the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for protecting young infants from pertussis and influenza.

ACIP Recommendations to Prevent <i>Pertussis</i>	ACIP Recommendations to Prevent <i>Influenza</i>
Pregnant women should receive Tdap with every pregnancy, ideally between 27- 36 weeks gestation.	Women who are or will be pregnant during flu season should receive Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV).
Postpartum women who do not receive a Tdap vaccine during pregnancy, and who have not previously received Tdap, should get Tdap immediately postpartum.	Postpartum women can receive either Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) or IIV.
Household and Other Contacts: Adults and adolescents age ≥ 11 years, who have not previously received Tdap, should get Tdap ideally ≥ 2 weeks before close contact with a newborn. This includes partners, fathers, siblings, grandparents, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.	Household contacts: ACIP emphasizes influenza vaccinations for household contacts (including children) and caregivers of children aged ≤ 59 months, with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of children aged < 6 months.
General: Everyone 19 years and older should receive one dose of Tdap, regardless of contact with infants.	General: All persons aged ≥ 6 months

“**Cocooning**” simply means vaccinating family members and caregivers to protect a vulnerable infant from a transmissible disease. The mother is the most vital contact to be vaccinated, followed by the infant’s other close contacts. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) strongly supports Tdap and flu vaccination of women during pregnancy, as well as “cocooning” strategies to protect the infant.

To help facilitate these vaccination strategies and help prevent infections among our most vulnerable populations, we have prepared the enclosed flyer which we highly encourage you to post in your office and distribute to patients. Electronic copies as well as translations in Spanish and Chinese may be downloaded from www.sfcdep.org/pertussis.html

Additional resources that you may find useful in organizing your practice to adhere to Tdap and flu vaccination recommendations, and in communicating with your patients about these vaccinations include:

<http://www.immunize.org/cocooning/>

- Informational flyers for parents, grandparents, and child-care providers

<http://www2.aap.org/immunization/multimedia/cocooning.html>

- Meeting presentation slides from an AAP-hosted meeting in 2012 to explore community vaccination strategies to protect infants against pertussis

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pubs-tools/index.html>

- Multimedia and print materials for patients on pertussis prevention

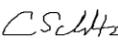
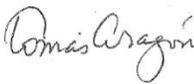
<http://www.immunizationforwomen.org/>

- ACOG's latest updates for immunizing adult and adolescent women, including pregnant women

We are interested in hearing more from you. Please contact the SFDPH Communicable Disease Prevention Program at (415) 554-2830 if you have questions or comments, have experienced particular successes or challenges that you would like to share, or if you'd like to discuss implementing the above policies at your institution.

Thank you for your continuing to promote the health of your patients and community.

Sincerely,

	
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Key References:

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