



STATE VACCINE LAWS: IMPACT ON SAN FRANCISCO

Dr. Susan Philip & Dr. Seema Jain
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POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA)

- Announced by Governor Newsom on September 3, 2025
- Health departments in Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, and California
- Goals
 - Focus on evidence-based recommendations
 - Support access to safe and effective vaccines
 - Coordinate to reduce confusion and increase trust
 - Align across states
 - Tie to respected professional organizations
- Initial focus on COVID-19, influenza, and RSV vaccines
- Venue for coordination of programmatic efforts
 - Partnerships with pharmacies and other providers
 - Sharing of tools



California Dept of Public Health (CDPH) Recommendations based on WCHA

Age/Condition	COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
Children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 6-23 months • All 2-18 years with risk factors or never vaccinated against COVID-19 • All who are in close contact with others with risk factors¹ • All who choose protection¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 6 months and older 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All younger than 8 months² • All 8-19 months with risk factors
Pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32-36 weeks gestational age²
Adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 65 years and older • All younger than 65 years with risk factors • All who are in close contact with others with risk factors • All who choose protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 75 years and older • All 50-74 years with risk factors



Historical California State Law

- Many references to CDC Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices (ACIP) and US Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) in state law
- Concerns that guidelines from these committees are being politicized and not evidence based
- References in code sections are related to:
 - Requirements for insurance coverage
 - Determination of which vaccines can be given by pharmacists and other health professionals
 - Medical exemptions to school immunization requirements
 - Professional liability
 - Public health immunization programs
 - Immunizations for skilled nursing facilities (SNF) residents and at hospital discharge



Solution: AB 144

- CDPH reviewed state law to identify references to recommendations from ACIP, USPSTF, and related federal agencies
- Replaced references with:
 - **Baseline of ACIP and USPSTF recommendations as of January 1, 2025**
 - Option for CDPH to modify or add to recommendations
- Updated law signed by Governor on 9/17/25
 - https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB144



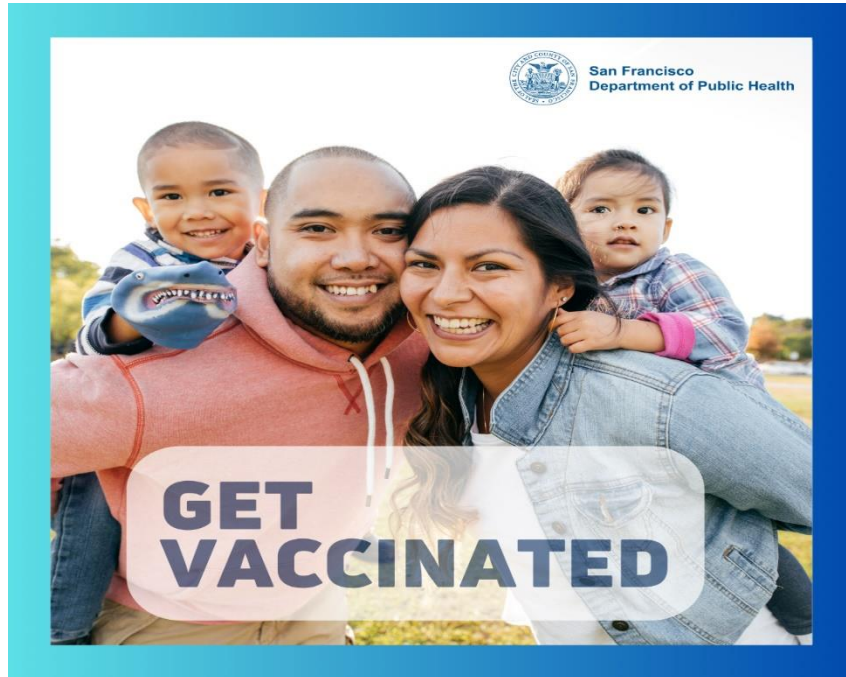
Impact of CDPH Recommendations under AB 144

For immunizations now recommended by CDPH, follow Public Health for All ([Public Health for All](#))

- California regulated health plans (by Dept of Managed Health Care of Dept of Insurance) are required to cover these immunizations
 - Includes MediCal Managed Care
 - Does not apply to federally regulated systems such as self-insurance plans, VA, and Medicare
- Vaccinators have protections against liability from administration
- Pharmacists may immunize patients 3 and older without a prescription from a physician
- CDPH can update as needed
 - Future FDA or ACIP or USPSTF changes



SFDPH Communications and Outreach



- Website: sf.gov/vax updated with latest CDPH recommendations
- Media: press release, media events, and interviews planned
- Social media: multi-lingual campaign
- Community engagement:
 - 5 vaccine events for older persons
 - Event and vaccine promotion with partners



Let's get vaccinated! Thank you!



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