



# STATE VACCINE LAWS: IMPACT ON SAN FRANCISCO

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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
<b>Children</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 6-23 months</li> <li>All 2-18 years with risk factors or never vaccinated against COVID-19</li> <li>All who are in close contact with others with risk factors<sup>1</sup></li> <li>All who choose protection<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 6 months and older</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All younger than 8 months<sup>2</sup></li> <li>All 8-19 months with risk factors</li> </ul>
<b>Pregnancy</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32-36 weeks gestational age<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Adults</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 65 years and older</li> <li>All younger than 65 years with risk factors</li> <li>All who are in close contact with others with risk factors</li> <li>All who choose protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 75 years and older</li> <li>All 50-74 years with risk factors</li> </ul>



# 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](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB144)



# Impact of CDPH Recommendations under AB 144

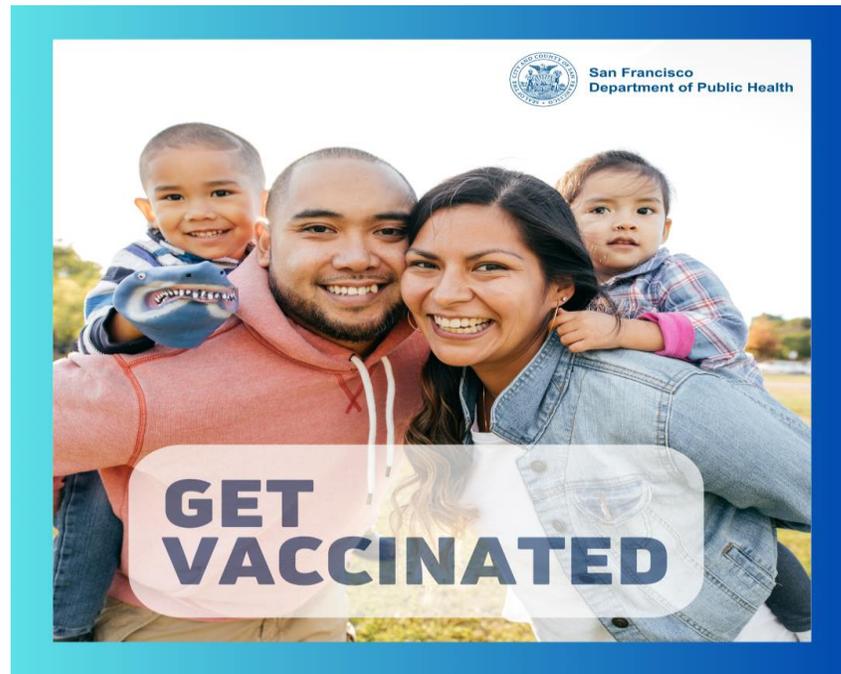
For immunizations now recommended by CDPH at Public Health for All ([Public Health for All](#))

- California regulated health plans are required to cover these immunizations
- 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 Plan, Communications and Outreach

- **SFDPH is aligning with CDPH/WCHA**



- Website: [sf.gov/vax](https://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!

