



Key Events for Vaccination Opportunities

Throughout the year, several events present perfect opportunities to approach your patients about vaccines that may be relevant to them. Here are just a few of these events.



JANUARY

WINTER TRAVEL

It is important that your patients know that some international travel destinations, especially developing countries and rural areas, have higher health risks and that vaccines can help protect against a number of serious vaccine-preventable diseases.¹



FEBRUARY

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

People with heart disease may have a higher risk of developing serious complications from certain diseases, including those that may be vaccine-preventable.²



MARCH

NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

People with end-stage renal disease, including predialysis, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and home dialysis patients, are at-risk for developing hepatitis B infection and should receive hepatitis B vaccination.³



APRIL

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK: FIRST FULL WEEK IN APRIL

Vaccinations help keep our communities healthy. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program offers vaccines at no cost to eligible children.⁴ But children aren't the only ones for whom vaccination is recommended.⁵ You can help by educating your adult patients on vaccinations that might be recommended for them.

WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK: FOURTH FULL WEEK IN APRIL

Vaccines protect the future health of all populations. The sustainable and equitable introduction of new vaccines and increasing coverage with underutilized vaccines can greatly reduce vaccine preventable disease (VPD) morbidity and mortality. Be sure to take time to talk to your patients about the importance of vaccinations for their entire family.⁶



MAY

HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

Vaccination can help prevent hepatitis A and hepatitis B. Take time to identify potentially at-risk patients and speak to them about hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccination.^{7,8}

MOTHER'S DAY: SECOND SUNDAY IN MAY

Your patients may be spending Mother's Day with their extended family, including infants. Encourage adolescents and adults who will be in close contact with an infant to get vaccinated against whooping cough.⁹



JUNE

SUMMER TRAVEL

Vaccine-preventable diseases that are rare in the United States are still found in numerous popular travel destinations around the world. Be sure your patients are up-to-date on their travel vaccines before they head off on their summer trips.¹



JULY

BACK TO SCHOOL

Whether your patients are just starting high school or heading off to college, remind them of the importance of vaccinations. Some childhood vaccinations may require additional doses or new vaccinations may be recommended.¹⁰ In particular, college students should be up-to-date on meningitis as well as pertussis, tetanus, flu vaccinations, and other vaccinations as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).⁵



AUGUST

BACK TO SCHOOL

As your patients get busier with the start of the school year, remind them that in-pharmacy vaccination is an option.

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH (NIAM)

From infants to the elderly, the goal of NIAM is to increase awareness about immunizations. It's a great time to make sure the entire family is up-to-date on all recommended vaccinations.¹¹

PREPARING FOR FLU SEASON

The flu vaccine usually becomes available in August or September. Let your patients know vaccination should occur before onset of influenza activity in the community and, if possible, by the end of October.¹²



SEPTEMBER

PREPARING FOR FLU SEASON

Before flu season officially hits, remind your patients of the importance of vaccinating before onset of influenza activity in the community and, if possible, by the end of October.

NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY: SECOND SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

New grandparents may not be aware of the importance of being vaccinated against whooping cough. Take advantage of this time to inform your patients that everyone, including those in close contact with infants, should be up-to-date with their whooping cough vaccinations.⁹



OCTOBER

NATIONAL HEALTH EDUCATION WEEK: THIRD FULL WEEK OF OCTOBER

Getting vaccinated may help you stay healthy all year round.¹³ Use this week to focus on educating your patients on the importance of immunizations for every stage of their life.



NOVEMBER

AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH & WORLD DIABETES DAY ON NOVEMBER 14

It is particularly important that people with diabetes are vaccinated against hepatitis B as they have higher risk for hepatitis B than the general population.¹⁴ They are also at risk of developing serious flu-related complications if not vaccinated against the flu.¹⁵ This month, educate people with diabetes on the importance of these vaccines. Refer to the CDC recommendations for appropriate age groups for vaccination with hepatitis B and other vaccinations that may be appropriate for patients with diabetes.



DECEMBER

NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK: FIRST FULL WEEK IN DECEMBER

According to the CDC, the single best way to protect against the flu is to get a flu vaccine annually. Take time this week to encourage your patients who have not yet been vaccinated to get vaccinated to help protect them during this flu season.

References:

1. Travel Smart: Get Vaccinated. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/vaccines-travel/index.html>. Updated May 21, 2018. Accessed October 11, 2018.
2. Vaccines are critical for adults with heart disease - Make sure your patients are protected. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/adults/downloads/matte-heart-disease.pdf>. Published April 29, 2016. Accessed October 11, 2018.
3. The ABCs of Hepatitis. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/resources/professionals/pdfs/abctable.pdf>. Updated 2016. Accessed October 11, 2018.
4. Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <https://www.cdc.gov/features/vfcprogram/>. Updated April 16, 2018. Accessed October 11, 2018.
5. What Vaccines are Recommended for You. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html>. Updated October 2, 2018. Accessed October 11, 2018.
6. World Immunization Week. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/immunization/wiw/index.html>. Updated April 26, 2018. Accessed October 11, 2018.
7. HEPATITIS A. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/pdfs/hepageneralfactsheet.pdf>. Updated 2015. Accessed October 11, 2018.
8. HEPATITIS B. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/pdfs/hepbgeneralfactsheet.pdf>. Published June 2016. Accessed October 11, 2018.
9. Surround Babies with Protection. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant/mom/protection.html>. Updated June 29, 2017. Accessed October 11, 2018.
10. College Health and Safety. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <http://www.cdc.gov/family/college/>. Updated August 9, 2016. Accessed October 11, 2018.
11. Recognizing National Immunization Awareness Month. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam.html>. Updated June 22, 2018. Accessed October 11, 2018.
12. Key Facts About Seasonal Flu Vaccine. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>. Updated September 6, 2018. Accessed October 11, 2018.
13. Vaccines. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases website. <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/vaccines>. Reviewed July 11, 2016. Accessed October 11, 2018.
14. Diabetes and Hepatitis B Vaccination. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/pdf/hepb_vaccination.pdf. Published October 2012. Accessed October 11, 2018.
15. Flu and People with Diabetes. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/diabetes/>. Updated September 18, 2018. Accessed October 11, 2018.

Trademarks are property of their respective owners.



©2018 GSK group of companies or its licensor.
Produced in USA. 1009954R0 October 2018