

Service Planning Area 8 Update January 2026



Hepatitis B and the Importance of Universal Vaccination at Birth

Hepatitis B is a serious viral infection that attacks the liver and can lead to lifelong chronic disease, liver cancer, and even death. Infants are particularly vulnerable.

The Hepatitis B vaccine is extremely effective at preventing infection and associated adverse health outcomes. When the full vaccine series is administered according to recommended schedules, more than 95% of infants develop strong lifelong immunity that protects them from infection. Additionally, over 40 years of data show that the adverse reactions to the vaccine are exceedingly rare in infants.

Because Hepatitis B can be spread from mother to child during childbirth or from an asymptomatic close household contact, vaccinating all infants against hepatitis B prior to them leaving the hospital is one of the most powerful tools in disease prevention available to public health practitioners, and has virtually eliminated hepatitis B infection in infants.

Despite decades of overwhelming evidence on the safety, effectiveness, and substantial population impact of a universal hepatitis b birth dose, The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently voted to change a decades-long recommendation for the hepatitis B birth dose from a universal approach to “individual-based decision-making” for infants born to mothers who test hepatitis B-negative. However, external infectious disease and public health experts have argued that there is no evidence to support weakening the recommendation for universal administration of the Hepatitis B vaccine at birth.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health continues to support science-backed decision-making prioritizing the health of all Los Angeles County residents, including infants and children. For these reasons, Public Health is aligned with recommendations from the California Department of Public Health, the West Coast Health Alliance¹, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)², the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)³, and the American Nurses Association⁴ to continue to strongly recommend that providers routinely offer and administer the first dose of the hepatitis B vaccine to all eligible newborns at birth. This message has been shared with the public via press releases and social media posts, as well as with all our stakeholders including clinics, hospitals and other vaccinating partners through written and oral

¹ <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/09/03/california-oregon-and-washington-to-launch-new-west-coast-health-alliance-to-uphold-scientific-integrity-in-public-health-as-trump-destroys-cdcs-credibility/>

² <https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/fact-checked/fact-checked-u.s.-vaccine-recommendations-are-appropriate-for-children-in-the-united-states>

³ <https://www.acog.org/>

⁴ <https://www.nursingworld.org/>

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communications. Additionally, our websites have been updated to emphasize the importance of the birth dose. We continue to update and produce materials and trainings for healthcare professionals — such as provider FAQs, immunization schedules, and clinical guidance — so that providers are confident in recommending and administering the first dose of the vaccine at birth.

Food Safety During the Winter Months

Every year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) estimates that 1 in 10 people in the United States experience a foodborne illness. Usually characterized by diarrhea and vomiting, foodborne illness can lead to serious health complications including, dehydration, sepsis, meningitis and in rare cases, death. Foodborne pathogens are easily transmitted and there are safe and effective measures we can take to protect ourselves, our families and community at large.

The pathogens that most commonly cause foodborne related disease include *Norovirus*, *Salmonella*, *Clostridium Perfringens*, *Campylobacter* and *Staphylococcus Aureus*. In Los Angeles County, most reportable food illness cases are from *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*. Noroviruses are highly contagious and the leading cause of gastroenteritis in the United States. Winter months tend to have high numbers of disease transmission for pathogens such as norovirus due to an increase in family and community gatherings where people can easily expose each other. Noroviruses are also likely to spread in settings where the risk of infectious disease transmission is high, such as in nursing homes, cruises, homeless shelters, and childcare facilities.

There are five principles⁵ to protect against foodborne illness:

1. Keep clean hands, utensils, eating and cooking surfaces
2. Separate raw and cooked foods
3. Cook foods thoroughly
4. Keep food at safe temperatures
5. Use safe water and raw materials

Other prevention methods include:

- Washing hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the toilet and before handling food. **Hand sanitizer does not kill noroviruses.**

⁵ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241594639>

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- Washing fruits and vegetables and cooking shellfish thoroughly. Follow [CDC Food Safety Guidance](#)⁶
- Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces with **bleach-based cleaners** or [EPA certified solutions](#) that can kill noroviruses. Refer to our [Norovirus Disinfection Guide](#)⁷.
- Review proper storage and use of cleaning solutions. Refer to [CDC How to Read Disinfectant Label](#)⁸
- Immediately wash contaminated clothing and linens in hot water and soap.
- Quickly flush or discard any vomit or stool and disinfect the area. Follow [ACDC's Safe Diaper Changing Guide](#)⁹.
- Dispose of contaminated food and maintain a clean environment.
- Infected individuals should avoid preparing food and attending school while symptomatic and for at least 48-72 hours after recovery.

Beyond following and sharing the best practices outlined above, it's important to emphasize that the rotavirus vaccine is a [safe and effective](#)¹⁰ way to protect infants against gastrointestinal illness.

Individuals who believe they became sick from eating or drinking something should file a report using the [Foodborne Illness Report Form](#)¹¹. In addition, anyone who is feeling sick should not be cooking for others and consider staying home until they are feeling better, especially if they are having symptoms of diarrhea or vomiting.

For more information, visit:

- [Foodborne and Waterborne Diseases](#)
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/foodwaterdiseases/home.htm>
- [Food Recalls](#)
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/safety/food-recalls.htm>
- [Report a Foodborne Illness](#)
<https://acdcredcap.ph.lacounty.gov/surveys/?s=J7XW9393YKC4JC4D>

⁶ https://www.cdc.gov/food-safety/prevention/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/keep-food-safe.html

⁷ <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/COT-Norovirus-Disinfecting.pdf>

⁸ https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/media/pdfs/howtoreadalabel-infographic-508.pdf?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/howtoreadalabel-infographic-508.pdf

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<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/communitysettings/docs/DiaperChangingBestPractices/DiaperChangingBestPracticesEnglish.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/rotavirus/vaccines/index.html>

¹¹ <https://acdcredcap.ph.lacounty.gov/surveys/?s=J7XW9393YKC4JC4D>

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The Curtis Tucker Center for Community Wellness

The Curtis Tucker Center for Community Wellness introduced two new community engagement programs designed to promote social connection and physical wellness. The Friday Social: Chess and Board Games event encourages community interaction through cognitive activities, while the Wednesday Wellness Walk supports physical activity and mental well-being. Both programs are open to the public and held at the Curtis Tucker Center.

Friday Social: Chess and Board Games

- Date: January 30, 2026
- Time: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Location: 123 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

Wednesday Wellness Walk

- Dates: February 4 and February 18, 2026
- Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- Location: 123 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301