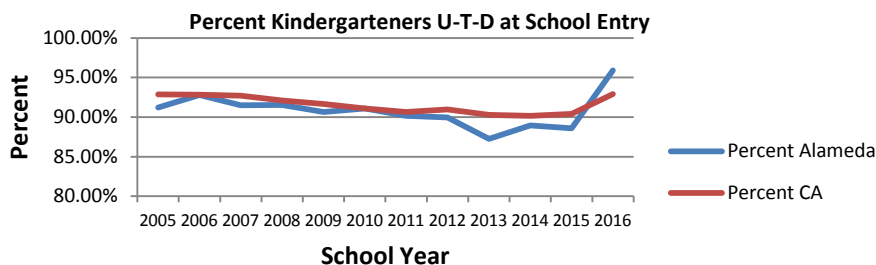


## “Comeback of the Year:” 2015/16 Vaccination Rates in Alameda County Schools

Alameda County leads California in improving student vaccination rates from 2014/15 to 2015/16! It is also the first year in over a decade that the immunization rate for Alameda County passed the average rate for California. The up-to-date rate of California as a whole is 92.9%, up 2.5 percentage points from 2014/15. Alameda County increased up-to-date rates by 7.3 percentage points, from 88.6% to 95.9%. Additionally, conditional entrant rates (rates for students who require catching up to meet their requirements) fell from 6.9% to 4.4% (2.5 percentage points) statewide and from 7.9% to 2.5% (5.7 percentage points) in Alameda County. 87% of reporting schools had up-to-date rates at or above the average for the state.

The [statewide](#) and [Alameda County-specific](#) successes were reported by KQED on air and in print.

Hat's off to the school nurses, front desk personnel, school principals and public health staff who made these tremendous improvements possible. There is much to be proud of!



## Two new laws in California aim to increase the Community Immunity in our Schools

### [SB 277](#)

As of January 1, 2016, California no longer allows new students in public or private schools the Personal Belief or Religious Exemption from being up-to-date on their vaccinations. This means that *all* children who attend child care or school with other children must be vaccinated against select communicable diseases, except those who are exempted for medical reasons.

### [SB 792](#)

SB792 makes proof of immunity or current vaccination with Tdap, MMR and annual influenza vaccine required for employees and volunteers of child care providers. While school requirements mostly focus on vaccinating children – known to be “super spreaders” – adults can also be the source of disease.

## Upcoming IPAC meetings

### No IPAC Meeting on February 10

The Steering Committee met mid January and decided that it made sense to cancel the February 10 meeting and send out this newsletter instead. Our next meeting will be in San Leandro scheduled from 2-4pm

on

**May 11, 2016**

Topics will include:

- SB 277 & SB 792
- Immunization Schedules
- Unicorns

## Top 10 Most Improved Schools in 2015/16

The ten Alameda County schools who improved their up-to-date rates for kindergarteners the most are:

1. Thornhill Elementary
2. Glenview Elementary
3. Greenleaf Elementary
4. Encompass Academy Elementary
5. Laurel Elementary
6. East Oakland Pride Elementary
7. Bridges Academy
8. St. Elizabeth Elementary
9. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary
10. James H. Graham Elementary

A total of 38 schools increased their up-to-date rates by 20 or more percentage points – Incredible!

## Increasing HPV Vaccine Coverage

Cervical cancer is the second most deadly cancer for women worldwide, and almost all cervical cancer is caused by infection with one of several oncogenic strains of human papillomavirus. HPV vaccine has shown itself to be very safe and offers [93-99% immunity](#) when all three doses are administered as recommended. Despite the clear value of this vaccine, uptake rates across the country are [far lower than for other vaccines](#). While this may have something to do with the fact that the series isn't started until at least age 11, uptake for the meningococcal conjugate vaccine is markedly higher. Others cite the political hype around the vaccine, but this is not the whole story. [Research supports](#) the hypothesis that vaccination rates are increased when doctors speak enthusiastically to their patients and the families of their patients about HPV vaccine. Additionally, presumptive vaccination, rather than hesitation has been shown to increase uptake. The AAP even offers a [free online course for physicians](#) on the importance of strong recommendations. When providers remind their patients to return to finish their series, rates can increase dramatically.

## More MAs, More Thoroughly Trained

Since we began offering free immunization training for Medical Assistants (MAs) every quarter, we have trained more than 160 MAs in Alameda County. Topics include the use of CAIR, vaccine storage and handling guidelines and hands-on vaccine administration best practices from our wonderful nurses. Our next set of trainings is scheduled for [March 16, 2016](#) and we could use your help at spreading the word! Each training session is a lot of fun and a chance to offer support to community members and health professionals. Registration is [online](#).

## IPAC Wish List

The Steering Committee has identified a few areas where IPAC needs additional support. Email [amy.pine@acgov.org](mailto:amy.pine@acgov.org) if you can fill any of these needs:

- MA Training Trainers (folks who know about CAIR, vaccine storage and handling, or vaccine administration, or public speaking enthusiasts – our next training is [March 16](#))
- Immunization requirement trainers for schools and child care providers (let's get to 100% up-to-date in 2016/17!)

## IPAC Guest Author Corner: Kate Holbrook of Shoo the Flu

This past November revealed a successfully completed second year of Shoo the Flu, a school-based influenza vaccination program in Oakland. The program's aim is to reduce community-wide flu transmission by increasing flu vaccine coverage in school-aged children. In its second year, Shoo the Flu administered 11,277 vaccinations at 138 sites. Vaccines were administered to students and school staff at no cost, during school hours, from October 5 to November 6.

We also collaborated with Public Health Emergency Preparedness to implement Shoo the Flu. Employees across the health department were invited to practice their emergency preparedness skills in assisting with vaccine packing, medical supplies management, running the school based clinics and administering vaccines. Over 150 individuals participated in Shoo the Flu this past fall.

Shoo the Flu is a partnership of ACPHD, the CDPH, the Oakland Unified School District and other community partners and receives financial support from the Page Family Foundation and Sutter Health East Bay Region. As Shoo the Flu continues to develop its model and evaluate its impact on decreasing the flu in Oakland, it is also building relationships in order to support long term sustainability. To learn more about Shoo the Flu or discuss a potential collaboration, please visit [ShooTheFlu.org](http://ShooTheFlu.org) or contact Kate Holbrook at [Kate.Holbrook@acgov.org](mailto:Kate.Holbrook@acgov.org).

Stay tuned for date, time, and location information for the  
**2016 IZ Update**

As always, we'll have guest speakers discussing changes in practices, news and research in the field of immunizations in our county and beyond.

[Check the IZ Program Events page!](#)