

# NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is observed in the month of August to highlight the importance of routine vaccinations for people of all ages and stages. The County of San Diego asks medical providers to continue to inform families on the importance of vaccines and answer their questions about vaccine safety. Patients who feel their concerns are heard, receive education, and have their questions answered are more likely to feel empowered when choosing to get a vaccine.

Staying up to date with the most current information, as per [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) guidelines, to address and reinforce vaccine confidence promotes informed decision-making among healthcare teams and patients. NIAM provides a spotlight and opportunity for providers to provide encouragement and support to patients for vaccination in your practice. The sharing of clear and accurate information about the latest vaccine recommendations benefits people from all walks of life:

- Vaccines are recommended for [pregnant women](#) to provide protection from diseases during pregnancy and after birth for both mother and baby.
- [Infants](#) cannot fight diseases on their own. They need vaccines at birth, 2, 4, 6, and 12-15 months. Once fully vaccinated, infants are protected from 14 serious diseases.
- Some vaccines require multiple doses to build immunity. [Young children](#) ages 2-6 should receive additional vaccines for the best protection.
- [Children and Adolescents](#) are active at school, sports, and other activities and need vaccines to protect them from illness. California schools are required to check immunization records and make sure all immunizations are up to date.
- [HPV Vaccine Week](#), August 4-10, 2024, provides an opportunity to promote HPV vaccinations in adolescents.
- Vaccines and boosters are needed for [adults](#) to keep them protected. The protection provided by vaccines wears off over time. Additional vaccines may also be recommended based on a person's job, lifestyle, or travel plans.
- [Older adults](#) struggle to fight off infections and are more likely to get sick. They may also have health conditions that increase their risk of severe illness. Vaccines increase immunity to help keep them healthy.
- [Travel](#) vaccine resources and clinics are available in San Diego to keep our adventurers safe when traveling out of the country to destinations. It is recommended travelers to look over immunization requirements and/or recommendations when planning a trip, and for people to consult with their healthcare provider.

Promoting vaccinations contributes to the Live Well San Diego vision of creating a Healthy, Safe, and Thriving region.

