



California District

California District (AAP-CA)

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**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, CALIFORNIA
STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF TIMELY H1N1
VACCINATION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
OCTOBER 26, 2009**

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California, representing all four AAP-CA regional chapters and over 5,000 board-certified pediatricians in California, strongly supports the vaccination of young children against the H1N1 virus, including those under three years of age, which is consistent with AAP recommendations.

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At present, the vaccine available for your child may contain trace amounts of thimerosal, as a preservative. Although concerns have been raised about thimerosal in the past, and Governor Schwarzenegger, in “an abundance of caution” signed a law restricting its use, the science does not support a link between thimerosal as a preservative in vaccines and autism. Per the American Academy of Pediatrics statement, October 2008:

“Valid scientific studies have shown there is no link between thimerosal and autism.”

California law therefore currently permits, under an exemption, administration of thimerosal-containing H1N1 vaccine to children under three years of age and pregnant women. This permission lasts through November 20, 2009, and will then be reassessed.

The H1N1 epidemic is upon us, it is real, and while many will have mild cases, others will not be as fortunate. Sadly, preventable deaths may occur. The AAP-CA strongly urges parents to obtain H1N1 vaccination formulations that are approved and ready for administration to their young children. Be smart, be safe, vaccinate.

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