Influenza activity in the United States is decreasing.

According to the FluView report for the week April 15, 2018, flu activity has continued to decrease in the United States, specifically on the west coast. Most states are reporting low to minimal flu activity. In addition, five influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. Although flu activity is decreasing, pregnant women who have not yet been vaccinated should still receive a flu vaccine as long as flu season continues (typically through May).

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is April 21-28, 2018. Each year, NIIW highlights immunization achievements and the positive impact of vaccination on the lives of infants and children. Healthcare professionals are on the front lines of the fight against vaccine-preventable diseases. According to CDC research, parents consistently identify healthcare professionals as their most trusted source of immunization information. Research also shows that many parents make vaccine decisions before their baby is even born.

During NIIW, ACOG encourages you to remind parents and pregnant women about the importance of on-time infant immunization. We also encourage you to review Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents, a suite of materials created by CDC, the American Academy of Pediatricians (AAP) and the
American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). In addition, CDC has a slide deck you can use to with staff to discuss how to create a culture of immunization in your practice. NIIW is also a great time to watch CDC’s recent webinar Getting Parents to Yes! Vaccine Conversations That Work for Providers & Parents. Visit the NIIW website for sample social media content, talking points, website banners, and more.

**UPDATED! ACOG Influenza Immunization during Pregnancy Toolkit**

ACOG recently updated several components of its Influenza tool kit, including the Committee Opinion, *Influenza Vaccination During Pregnancy*.

Visit ACOG’s [Immunization for Women](https://www.acog.org) website to access ACOG’s *Influenza Immunization During Pregnancy Toolkit*, which includes:

- **NEW!** Committee Opinion 732: [Influenza Vaccination During Pregnancy](https://www.acog.org)
- **UPDATED!** FAQ’s for Patients Concerning Influenza (Flu) Vaccination During Pregnancy,
- FAQ’s for Patients Concerning Vaccine Safety,
- **UPDATED!** FAQ’s Concerning Seasonal Influenza for Ob-Gyn,
- [Flu Vaccine Information Statement](https://www.acog.org), and
- ACOG’s [Influenza Season Assessment and Treatment for Pregnant Women with Influenza-Like Illness](https://www.acog.org)

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**Vaccine Research Fellowship at Kaiser Permanente Northern California**

Interested in conducting research regarding vaccines and other disease research? The Kaiser Permanente Northern California (KNC) Division of Research (DOR) is offering a full-time two-year term (with the possibility of extension) fellowship training position with its Vaccine Study Center in Oakland, California. The Fellow will work in collaboration with the Director of Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center (KPVSC) to design, develop, and direct well-defined research, write and present papers, prepare grant proposals, provide consultation and direction to programmer/analyst regarding data management and analysis strategies, and collaborate on several large ongoing and multisite vaccine clinical trials and observation studies.

Required qualifications include an MD degree or equivalent, and be either board certified or board eligible in a clinical specialty.

If interested please email a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to:
Nicky Klein, MD, PhD
Director, Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center
Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente Northern California
One Kaiser Plaza, 16th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612
Email: Nicola.Klein@kp.org (cc: Laurie.A.Aukes@kp.org)

In addition, you can find the link to apply on-line as well as a full description of the fellowship at https://kp.taleo.net/careersection/external/jobdetail.ftl?job=671332

**ACOG’s Immunization Applet**
Download the [ACOG app](#) and stay connected with authoritative information from the leading experts in women’s health care. The immunization applet is part of the ACOG app and is a trusted and interactive resource on immunization best practices. The app includes an interactive “By Profile” feature in which recommended immunizations are generated based on the information providers enter about their patient’s age and conditions.

**Zika Virus Update**
See ACOG and SMFM’s [Practice Advisory](#) on Zika Virus. Regardless of location, providers should evaluate all pregnant women in the United States for possible Zika virus exposure during each prenatal care visit. This evaluation should include an assessment of signs and symptoms of Zika virus disease, a travel history and a woman’s sexual partner’s potential exposure.

**Access ACOG’s Zika Toolkit online!** The toolkit includes ACOG’s Patient Education Zika virus [infographic](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) and [video](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)), and additional links for ob-gyns.

Visit ACOG’s [Zika Virus webpage](#) for up-to-date information and resources.

Remind travelers to protect themselves and loved ones from mosquito bites and sexual transmission of Zika. Refer them to [CDC’s Zika Travel Information](#) page to learn what they need to know before, during and after their travel.

**NEW Zika Care Connect Update!**
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with March of Dimes, has established a specialty healthcare professional network, known as Zika Care Connect (ZCC), to facilitate access to services for the management of Zika. **ZCC now includes a searchable member directory.** The directory is an online searchable tool for ZCC members to access the phone number, email, and address of other ZCC members. The information you provide for this directory will only be accessible to other professionals with a ZCC login and NOT to the general public. If you are already a member of the Zika Care Connect Network you can call the HelpLine for assistance joining the directory.

If you have not yet joined the Zika Care Connect Healthcare Professional Network— it’s not too late! To find out more about how to be included in the ZCC Healthcare Professional Network or the Member Directory, please contact the Program Director,
Lindsay Rechtman (lrechtman@mcking.com/404-683-4394) or the Zika Care Connect HelpLine (helpline@zikcareconnect.org/ 844-677-0447).