

For Immediate Release  
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## **Vaccinate California Statement on National Immunization Awareness Month**

SACRAMENTO – Throughout the month of August, health and vaccination advocates across the nation will recognize [National Immunization Awareness Month](#). National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. NIAM was established to encourage people of all ages to make sure they are up to date on the vaccines recommended for them. Communities have continued to use the month each year to raise awareness about the important role vaccines play in preventing serious, sometimes deadly, diseases.

Leah Russin, Executive Director of Vaccinate California, issued the following statement in recognition of the awareness month:

“As we recognize National Immunization Awareness Month throughout August, we are reminded of why vaccines are so critical to keep our children and communities healthy. Vaccines protect against serious diseases and save lives, plain and simple. And there is an overwhelming scientific consensus behind that. And in order to increase vaccination rates in California, school aged children will now be required to be up to date on their vaccines – making our schools safer and healthier as our children head back into the classrooms.”

Last year, thousands of pro-vaccination parents, doctors, educators, health advocates and others fought to make our schools and state healthier by passing SB277 to help increase vaccination rates. Under SB277, which went into effect on July 1, children first entering daycare, kindergarten, or seventh grade must be up to date on their immunizations or have a medical exemption from a licensed physician.

To learn more about Vaccinate California, visit <http://vaccinatecalifornia.org>

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