



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health




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October 26, 2016

IZB-FY-16-17-03

TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Sarah Royce, MD, MPH, Chief 
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Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: 2016-2017 Supplemental Influenza Vaccine Ordering and Vaccine Supply Update

SUMMARY

California Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers interested in ordering additional influenza vaccine doses may access VFC's Supplemental Ordering through their MyVFCVaccines account after October 26, 2016. In general, supplemental ordering is contingent upon two conditions: a) available vaccine supply and b) 100% distribution of provider-confirmed doses at the beginning of the season. Once all doses have been received for a particular product, providers may request additional doses as needed throughout the season. Supplemental ordering will remain open throughout influenza season as vaccine supply permits.

VACCINE SUPPLY

Supply levels for most of the VFC influenza product formulations are adequate to fulfill provider supplemental orders. Supplemental ordering will be immediately available for the following:

- Fluzone[®] Pediatric 0.25 mL single-dose, pre-filled syringes (Sanofi Pasteur)
- Fluzone[®] 5 mL multi-dose vial (Sanofi Pasteur)
- Fluarix[®] 0.5 mL single-dose, pre-filled syringes (GlaxoSmithKline)
- Flucelvax[®] 0.5 mL single-dose, pre-filled syringes (Seqirus)

VFC has yet to receive adequate supplies of Sanofi Pasteur's Quadrivalent Fluzone[®] 0.5 mL single-dose, pre-filled syringes. As vaccine supply becomes available, we will ship additional doses to fulfill providers' initial flu vaccine requests. We expect to fulfill 100% of initial orders of the Fluzone[®] 0.5 ml single-dose, pre-filled syringes by November 2016. Supplemental ordering for this product will be opened once additional doses are received to complete initial orders.

ORDER GUIDELINES

Who Can Place Supplemental Orders?

Supplemental ordering is available to providers who were not able to submit their initial order confirmation to VFC this past summer. Ordering will also be enabled for providers who have already received 100% of initially confirmed doses for available products listed above. Providers who have not yet received 100% of their confirmed doses of a particular product may order an alternate product within the age group.

Information to Consider

Ordering limitations are built in the supplemental ordering system to ensure VFC has processed and shipped initial orders, as well as any supplemental order, before providers are allowed to re-order doses. Additionally, the system has a limitation on the number of doses that can be ordered with each supplemental order. We encourage your practice to submit more frequent supplemental orders throughout the 2016-2017 flu season, rather than placing one large order. This will not only minimize vaccine waste at the end of the season but will help you easily manage smaller quantities of inventory, prevent stock overcrowding, ensure adequate refrigerator air flow, and minimize potential vaccine losses (in the event of a temperature excursion or due to expiration at the end of the season).

Before submitting requested doses, please consider the following:

- Doses of flu inventory on hand and any planned reminder/recall influenza vaccination outreach efforts for the particular ordering period. Keep in mind that children 6 months through 8 years of age are recommended to receive a second dose (spaced at least 4 weeks apart) unless they have received ≥ 2 doses of tri- or quadrivalent influenza vaccine before July 1, 2016.
- Flu vaccine doses transferred in from another VFC Provider or transferred out to a VFC Provider must be reported on your MyVFCVaccines account prior to requesting supplemental flu doses.
- Flu vaccine doses administered to-date must be reported as part of supplemental order submission. The total number of doses administered in comparison to doses shipped, and doses transferred in/out will be considered in the order submission process. In general, providers with a significant number of unused doses will be limited in requesting additional doses.

If doses allocated during initial order confirmation were not sufficient to vaccinate VFC eligible children in your practice, or if you find that the supplemental order limitation is inconsistent with your current VFC patient population, please contact the VFC Program Customer Service line to have your allocation reviewed and increased.

Order Processing and Vaccine Shipments

Supplemental orders are processed by the VFC Central Office several times per week. Orders are sent to the VFC Program's National Vaccine distributor for fulfillment, and these orders ship in full. Please ensure that you can store all the doses you requested, as orders cannot be canceled once sent for fulfillment. An e-mail notification is sent to the practice's Vaccine Coordinator and Back-Up Coordinator upon processing of the order.

To ensure successful delivery of your flu vaccine shipment, please confirm that shipping days and hours listed on your MyVFCVaccines account are up to date. If your clinic is planned to be closed for vacation, call the VFC Customer Service Line as soon as possible so that we may block certain days for shipping.

INFLUENZA VACCINE ACCOUNTABILITY

As with all other VFC-supplied vaccines, VFC influenza vaccine doses may only be used for VFC-eligible patients 18 years of age and younger. VFC vaccine may not be administered to privately-insured patients or adult patients 19 years of age and older under any circumstance.

Borrowing between vaccine supplies is not allowed. For example, giving private-purchased flu doses to VFC patients or giving VFC flu doses to privately-insured patients are strictly prohibited. Doing so may constitute fraud or abuse of VFC-supplied vaccines.

Vaccine doses administered must be tracked and documented, using a vaccine administration log, immunization registry, or similar system. A sample of VFC's [Vaccine Usage log](#) was included in your clinic's first flu vaccine shipment and can be downloaded from www.eziz.org. Doses administered must be reported to the VFC program with each supplemental influenza vaccine order. Total flu vaccine doses administered will need to be reported to the VFC Program towards the end of the flu season and will be taken into consideration for 2017-2018 VFC flu vaccine allocations.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please call your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Customer Service Center at 877-2GET-VFC (877-243-8832), or visit www.eziz.org.