



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer


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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

DATE August 16, 2017 IZB-FY17-18-02

TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Sarah Royce, M.D., M.P.H., Chief 
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: 2017-2018 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Ordering Instructions

SUMMARY

The VFC Program's online influenza (flu) ordering confirmation system will be available from **August 17, 2017** to **August 31, 2017** on www.EZIZ.org. Log in to your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account to review, modify, and submit flu vaccine confirmations for your practice.

The purpose of the initial flu order is to get your practice started with an initial supply for the 2017-2018 Flu Season. It is expected that you will proactively order additional doses as needed throughout the season during supplemental flu ordering.

Unconfirmed doses remaining in the system after **August 31, 2017** will be released into the supplemental flu ordering vaccine supply. These doses will be available to all providers on a first-come, first-serve basis during supplemental flu ordering.

PRIOR TO CONFIRMING INITIAL FLU ORDERS

Report Unused, Expired Doses

If your practice has any unused, expired influenza doses from the 2016-2017 season, these doses must be immediately removed from your refrigerator and reported to the VFC Program by submitting a Return/Transfer form online in your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account. This must be done before confirming your initial flu order for the 2017-2018 season.

Consider your Seasonal Flu Vaccine Needs

Influenza vaccine is routinely recommended for all VFC patients 6 months through 18 years of age. Base your initial vaccine need on the number of VFC-eligible patients in your practice who may have received other routine immunizations during the past year, the age of scheduled patients (some children will need a second dose of flu vaccine for



full protection), any planned reminder/recall influenza vaccination outreach efforts, and the number of influenza doses that remained unused at the end of the 2016-2017 flu season.

All VFC provider initial orders for the 2017-2018 season were guided by each clinic's usage of key pediatric and adolescent vaccines as reported through routine VFC vaccine orders. This is to ensure that each practice receives an adequate supply of VFC flu doses in alignment with the number of children that may have been immunized during the past year, as well as reported VFC-eligible populations.

Prepare your Vaccine Refrigerator

Prepare your vaccine storage unit to receive initial vaccine shipments. Make sure space is available to store vaccine doses. Space should be appropriately labeled to distinguish your VFC and your private influenza vaccine supply.

2017-2018 VFC INFLUENZA PRODUCTS

Below is a list of all influenza products that will make up VFC's influenza vaccine supply for the 2017-2018 season.

Age Group	Product	Presentation	Manufacturer
6-35 months	Pediatric Fluzone®	0.25mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack	Sanofi
	Pediatric FluLaval® *	0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack	GSK
3-18 years	Fluzone®	5mL multi-dose vial	Sanofi
	FluLaval®	0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack	GSK
	Flucelvax®	0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack	Seqirus

** There is no separate Pediatric FluLaval formulation. This is an internal VFC ordering designation for order confirmation purposes for each age group.*

Given limited doses of vaccines for each product listed above, the VFC Program will allocate doses to each practice considering vaccine brand preferences and packaging used in previous seasons, as well as brand preference for other pediatric vaccines.

KEY STEPS FOR CONFIRMING YOUR 2017-2018 INITIAL VFC FLU ORDER

Consider Order Confirmation Timelines

- Please work with your clinic staff to ensure your clinic's initial order is submitted by August 31, 2017.
- Once the online Flu Order Confirmation process begins, you will have approximately two (2) weeks to review and confirm your initial flu order.

Review your Clinic's Initial VFC Flu Order

- Upon login to your MyVFCVaccines account, follow on-screen instructions to review and confirm your clinic's 2017-2018 initial VFC flu order.
- Review the number of doses in your initial flu order. Keep in mind that this initial order is to get your practice started for the season and additional doses should be ordered proactively as needed throughout the season in supplemental flu ordering.
- The maximum number of doses that may be requested for the initial flu order will be displayed by brand and by age group. Providers cannot request doses in excess of the maximum initial order for each age group, but may reduce the number of doses requested per brand.
 - ✓ **6-35 months of age:** Doses may be shifted from one brand to the other, but both brands cannot be ordered. Due to the different dosage amounts in each vaccine, only one brand may be ordered to help prevent possible administration errors.
 - ✓ **3-18 years of age:** Doses allocated for your initial VFC flu order may be shifted between brands as long as the total number of doses requested does not exceed the maximum number of doses allowed for the age group.
- Consider any unused doses remaining from the prior season when confirming your flu requests. Providers should aim at minimizing the number of doses wasted at the end of each influenza season due to unused, and expired doses.

Additional Step-by-Step instructions are outlined in the attached 2017-2018 Flu Order Confirmation Quick Guide.

Newly Enrolled Providers

- Newly enrolled providers with limited usage as reported through routine VFC vaccine orders or no vaccine distribution history will have a limited number of doses available for the initial flu order.
- Providers may contact the VFC Customer Service Center or their VFC Field Representative if their VFC-eligible patient population has significantly increased since their enrollment date.

NEXT STEPS AFTER CONFIRMING YOUR INITIAL VFC FLU ORDER

VFC Review of Submitted Initial Flu Orders

- The VFC Program will review initial flu requests, including any vaccine brand reallocation, and approve them based on available vaccine supply. Final approved initial flu order confirmations will be emailed to VFC Providers **in early September 2017**.

- All confirmed initial flu orders will remain in queue until flu vaccine supplies are received at VFC's national vaccine distributor.

Vaccine Shipments

- Influenza vaccine supplies for different manufacturers arrive at VFC's national vaccine distributor at different times and in multiple shipments throughout the season.
- As in previous flu seasons, providers will receive their flu vaccine doses in multiple shipments throughout the season.
- The VFC Program will notify all providers via email when flu products are received at the distribution center and shipment of approved initial flu orders begins.

VACCINE USAGE AND INVENTORY REPORTING

As with all other VFC-supplied vaccines, tracking the administration of VFC flu doses is required. Doses administered must be documented on [VFC's 2017-2018 Flu Usage Log](#) (or a similar form) and reported to the VFC Program as part of the submission process for supplemental flu vaccine ordering.

Providers may also use CAIR (or a similar immunization registry) or an electronic health record system which tracks administered doses to generate vaccine usage reports.

Influenza vaccine usage must be reported as part of each VFC supplemental vaccine request.

VFC INFLUENZA PROGRAM LETTER AND ACIP RECOMMENDATIONS

The annual VFC Program Influenza letter, which includes detailed information regarding this season's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) influenza vaccination recommendations, product dosage and administration, storage and handling guidelines, and other important information, will be released once recommendations are published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please call the VFC Customer Service Center at 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC). For frequently asked questions, please refer to the "2017-2018 Flu Order Confirmation FAQs" included with this communication. You can also contact your VFC Field Representative or visit our website, www.EZIZ.org.