



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
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July 31, 2017

We Are Gearing Up for Flu, so Should You!

Dear VFC Provider,

The VFC Program's Influenza Vaccine Order Confirmation for the 2017-2018 Flu Season will be available for providers to confirm their initial flu vaccine request by **mid-August 2017**. Once the system is open, VFC will e-mail a notification to all providers. You will have **2 weeks** to review and confirm doses.

Follow these initial steps to get your practice ready for the upcoming flu season:

- Get your fridge ready, and make room for this year's flu vaccine! All flu products from the 2016-2017 Flu Season have expired. If you still have flu doses on-hand, please remove them from your storage unit immediately and submit a VFC Return form through [MyVFCVaccines](#). You will need to complete the Return Form prior to confirming your initial order for the 2017-2018 Flu Season.
- Outline your Flu Vaccination implementation strategy! Begin forming your influenza vaccination plans to ensure all children and adolescents in your practice are protected. Review the number of VFC-eligible children in your practice, review influenza vaccination schedules, assess the available space in your vaccine storage unit to ensure proper storage, etc.

Key Changes with 2017-2018 VFC Flu Ordering:

- 6-35 Months Age Group: For the first time, the VFC Program will be offering two products for the 6-35 months age group – Sanofi's Pediatric Fluzone® and GSK's FluLaval®. Due to the different dosage amounts in each vaccine, only one brand may be ordered to help prevent possible administration errors. Get familiar with these products prior to ordering and administration.
- Initial Flu Order: The number of doses on your initial flu order is based on your practice's usage of key pediatric and adolescent vaccines reported through routine VFC orders, total flu doses ordered for the previous flu season and available vaccine supply.
- Flu Order Frequency: The purpose of the initial flu order confirmation 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 in Supplemental Flu ordering.

If you have any questions please call the VFC Program at (877) 243-8832.