



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




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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

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

SUBJECT: 2017-2018 Supplemental Influenza Vaccine Ordering and Vaccine Supply Update

SUMMARY

California Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers interested in ordering additional influenza vaccine doses may access the VFC Program’s Supplemental Ordering system through their MyVFCVaccines account after October 27, 2017. In general, supplemental ordering is contingent upon two conditions: a) available vaccine supply and b) 100% fulfillment of initial flu vaccine orders that providers confirmed at the beginning of the season. Once all initial flu order doses for each confirmed product have been received in full by each VFC site, providers may request additional doses as needed throughout the season. Supplemental ordering will remain open throughout influenza season as vaccine supply permits.

VACCINE SUPPLY

Below is a list of all influenza products available through the VFC Program for the 2017-2018 season, as supply permits:

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

**Only providers who were shipped this product during initial VFC flu order shipments may request additional doses of Pediatric Fluzone during Supplemental Ordering.*

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

ORDER GUIDELINES

Who Can Place Supplemental Orders?

Supplemental ordering is available to providers who have already received 100% of their initially confirmed doses for the products listed above and need additional doses to immunize VFC-eligible patients in their practice. Providers who did not submit their initial order confirmations to the VFC Program by the August 31, 2017 deadline may also submit flu vaccine requests during supplemental flu ordering.

Verification of Clinic Hours/Availability to Receive Doses Ordered

Supplemental orders are processed by the VFC Central Office daily and sent to the National Vaccine distributor for fulfillment. Please ensure that you can store all of the doses you request, as supplemental flu orders are shipped in full and 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 will be closed for any reason, call the VFC Customer Service Center at 877-243-8832 as soon as possible.

Products that May Be Ordered

Vaccinations should never be delayed or deferred due to unavailability of a specific influenza vaccine brand.

- 6-35 months age category: Due to supply limitations, only the product the VFC Program shipped to your practice for your Initial Flu Order may be requested for the 6-35 month age group.
- 3-18 years age category: Providers may order alternate products/brands, even if they differ from products received with initial shipments.

Before submitting supplemental flu orders and requests, please consider the following:

- Flu vaccination is routinely recommended for all children and youth ages 6 months through 18 years of age. Utilize every opportunity to vaccinate your patients against influenza and other vaccine-preventable diseases.
- 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 at least two doses of influenza vaccine before July 1, 2017. (Doses need not have been given during same or consecutive seasons.)

- Doses of VFC flu vaccine inventory on-hand and any planned reminder/recall influenza vaccination outreach efforts for the particular ordering period.

Accountability

Providers must account for all VFC flu doses received in order to request additional flu vaccine, similar to routine VFC orders of non-flu vaccines.

- VFC flu vaccine doses administered since the last order and the number of doses on-hand by lot number must be reported as part of supplemental order submission. The total number of doses administered in comparison to doses shipped, as well as doses transferred in/out, will be considered in the order submission process.
- VFC flu vaccine doses transferred in from another VFC Provider or transferred out to a VFC Provider must be reported by submitting an online transfer form in your MyVFCVaccines account prior to requesting supplemental flu doses.

Similarly, administered doses must also be documented and tracked utilizing a vaccine administration log, Electronic Health Record (EHR), immunization registry, or similar system.

Frequency of Orders

Limitations on frequency of ordering are built into the supplemental ordering system to allow time for practices to receive and administer doses, before reordering additional flu vaccine. These limitations also allow time for the VFC Program to process and ship orders.

We encourage your practice to submit more frequent and smaller supplemental orders throughout the 2017-2018 flu season as needed, rather than placing one large order. Doing so will minimize vaccine waste at the end of the season due to expiration and will help your practice manage inventory, prevent stock overcrowding, ensure adequate refrigerator airflow, and minimize potential vaccine losses (in the event of temperature excursions or unit malfunction).

Order Limits

Orders for flu vaccine must align with ordering and usage of all other pediatric and adolescent vaccines. 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. If flu vaccine doses ordered exceed vaccine administration of routine pediatric and adolescent vaccine, you will have the opportunity to submit a request for additional doses and provide a brief justification within the supplemental flu vaccine order form.

DOCUMENTATION OF VFC ELIGIBILITY AND INFLUENZA VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

As with all other VFC-supplied vaccines, VFC influenza vaccine doses may be used only for VFC-eligible patients 6 months through 18 years of age. VFC vaccine may not be administered to privately-insured patients or adult patients 19 years of age and older under any circumstances.

Borrowing between vaccine supplies is not allowed. For example, giving privately 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 documented in the patient's permanent medical record, and tracked (paper or electronic) using a vaccine administration log, EHR, immunization registry, or similar system. Administration logs must be made available upon request by your VFC Field Representative. A sample of the VFC Program's [Vaccine Usage log](#) was included in your clinic's first flu vaccine shipment and can be downloaded from www.eziz.org. Doses administered and doses on-hand must be reported to the VFC Program with each supplemental influenza vaccine order.

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.