



California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program 2018-2019 Flu Order Confirmation Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I shift doses between the various flu vaccine products this year?

- a. 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. Doses allocated for your Initial VFC Flu Order cannot be shifted between brands. Please keep in mind that all VFC flu products are Quadrivalent and injectable.
- b. Fluarix[®] and FluLaval[®] doses make up a large percent of the state's VFC flu vaccine supply. Both products have the same age indication and packaging. Practices will be assigned either of these products and will not be able to request a switch or to order both products.

2. Why do you no longer have a 6-35 months age group category?

- a. GSK's Fluarix[®] and FluLaval[®] come in 0.5ml pre-filled syringes and are licensed for administration down to 6 months of age. Both products can be given to VFC-eligible patients up to 18 years of age and therefore fall under the age category of 6 months through 18 years. The full dose of the entire syringe of either product should be given at the time of administration.
- b. Sanofi's Pediatric Fluzone is 0.25mL may be made available during the Supplemental Ordering phase. Pediatric Fluzone[®] can only be administered to patients 6-35 months of age.
- c. Children under 9 years of age with a history of <2 doses of influenza vaccine are recommended to receive 2 doses this flu season.

3. I want more flu doses - can you increase my initial order for me?

- a. Due to supply limitations, the VFC Program cannot grant your request to increase your initial order at this time.
- b. You can and should order more doses as needed through Supplemental Flu Ordering.
- c. If you have additional questions about increasing your initial flu order, please follow up with your VFC Field Representative.

4. I don't want all of the flu doses allocated to my practice - can you decrease my initial order for me?

- a. You can decrease the number of doses in your initial order by simply reducing the amounts you request before submitting your initial order confirmation.

5. Why do you have an initial flu ordering system and a supplemental flu ordering system? Why can't providers order all of their flu doses at once?

- a. An initial flu ordering system was developed as a method for providers to request an initial amount of flu vaccines to get them started for the flu season and to facilitate improved vaccine management by preventing overcrowding of the vaccine refrigerator. The exact timing and duration of flu seasons can vary, but influenza activity often begins to increase in October and typically peaks between December and February, although activity can last as late as May.
- b. Due to the nationwide process of flu vaccine distribution to all states with VFC Programs and the timing of availability from the vaccine manufacturers, allocated flu vaccine supply to California is distributed in increments; therefore the CA VFC Program cannot distribute a practice's entire flu vaccine request for the season all at once.
- c. The supplemental flu ordering system was developed to encourage providers to proactively request additional flu vaccine doses more frequently, as needed, throughout the season; this also helps to reduce the burden for the practice to store a large supply of flu vaccine at any given time in the vaccine refrigerator.

6. How were my allocations calculated?

- a. The number of doses available for your practice's initial flu order is based on your reported usage of routine pediatric and adolescent VFC vaccine for the past year and available flu vaccine supply.
- b. Keep in mind that the initial order is intended to get providers started for the upcoming flu season. It is expected that providers will proactively order additional doses, as needed, through the supplemental order system.

7. How were my products allocated?

- a. Allocations are based on available vaccine supply pre-booked for distribution to California VFC Providers.
- b. Fluarix® and FluLaval® doses make up a large percent of the state's VFC flu vaccine supply. Both products are manufactured by GSK, have the same age indication and packaging. Practices will be assigned either of these products and will not be able to request a switch or to order both products. Providers within the same parent organization were allocated the same product to maintain consistency throughout the organization.
- c. Some providers may see an allocation of Fluzone® multi-dose vials (MDVs), and this is based on prior usage of Fluzone® MDVs during the past flu season.
- d. Providers who only reported patient estimates in the 7-18 years age category during VFC Recertification (thus indicating that they do not have patients less than 6 years of age) were allocated Flucelvax®. Flucelvax® can only be administered to VFC-eligible patients 4 through 18 years of age.

8. Why are the total doses I received last year more than the numbers I see in my initial flu order?

- a. This is just your initial flu vaccine order and is intended to get your practice started for the upcoming flu season; it is expected that the remainder of doses your practice may need will be ordered proactively through supplemental ordering.
- b. Keep in mind that this year's flu doses were allocated based on your reported vaccine usage for key sentinel pediatric and adolescent vaccines, and available vaccine supply.

9. What if I need more doses?

- a. It is expected that your practice will order additional doses proactively as needed in Supplemental Flu ordering.
- b. It is recommended that you look at your flu vaccine on-hand inventory when you are placing your routine order for other VFC vaccines; place supplemental flu orders at the same time as your routine VFC vaccine order and be sure to request all flu products that are needed.
- c. If flu vaccine doses requested are in significant excess of what is used for other routine pediatric vaccines, then a justification for these additional flu doses must be submitted to the VFC Program.

10. I'm a New Provider, why don't I have doses allocated for my initial order?

- a. New Providers that have reported usage data for key sentinel vaccines were allocated doses accordingly, but New Providers without reported usage were not allocated doses and will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Please call the VFC Customer Service Center at 1-877-243-8832 for more information on submitting a flu vaccine request; please note these requests will be assessed individually and based on available vaccine supply.
- b. If your request is approved or a modified request is approved, your practice will see these amounts in your flu order history when you log-in to your MyVFCvaccines account and click on the flu order button.
- c. Newly enrolled providers with limited or no vaccine usage data may contact the VFC Customer Service Center or their VFC Field Representative to discuss their flu requests.

11. Why do we have different products than last year?

- a. California pre-booked flu products based on available vaccine supply for distribution to VFC providers.
- b. For more information about the available flu products this year, please refer to the VFC Program communication regarding 2018-2019 Influenza Ordering Instructions.
- c. Your practice should also refer to the official VFC Program Influenza Letter and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) 2018-2019 flu recommendations when they are available.

12. Why is FluMist® still not available for ordering this year?

- a. FluMist® will not be offered through the CA VFC Program during the 2018-2019 Influenza Season. Unfortunately, our vaccine purchase commitment for CA's VFC influenza vaccine supply had already been finalized when FluMist® later became available; FluMist® could not be substituted for already committed products.