



# IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health  
Immunization Branch  
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program  
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## US Flu Season is beginning to increase!

Dear VFC Provider,

The latest CDC Influenza Summary report indicates that there have been some increases in flu activity in the United States. Although the start and peak of most flu seasons vary in their timing from year to year, most often flu peaks during the month of February.

Many weeks of flu activity are likely still ahead of us, therefore it is important to ensure that patients 6 months and older in your practice who have not yet received their annual influenza vaccine, and children who may need their second dose, are vaccinated. It takes about two weeks after vaccination to develop protection. So vaccination even now, after the holiday break, still offers protection against flu viruses.

Some children aged 6 months of age through 8 years of age may require two doses of influenza vaccine for full protection. For these children, a single dose of vaccine may offer only reduced protection or no protection at all.

### Need Additional Doses of Flu Vaccine?

- VFC's Supplemental Flu Ordering continues to be available with adequate supply in-stock for all flu products. Providers may log-in to their [MyVFCvaccines](#) account and click on the "Supplemental Flu Order" button to access supplemental flu ordering.
- Providers may submit additional supplemental flu orders as needed throughout the flu season as supply permits. There is a limitation on the number of doses that can be ordered through the online supplemental ordering system. If you need more doses than the system will allow you to order, please contact the VFC program.
- Your supplemental flu request will be shipped in full. Please ensure that your shipping hours are updated by logging into your [MyVFCvaccines](#) account. Please also ensure that you can properly store all of the doses that you request. Confirmed flu vaccine orders cannot be canceled.

### FluMist® Quadrivalent Replacement Program:

- If you have FluMist® doses with expiration dates between 12/14/2015 and 1/31/2016, the VFC Program encourages you to take advantage of the FluMist® Quadrivalent Replacement Program. This Program will replace unused, expiring doses of FluMist® with doses with a longer expiration date, at no cost.
- Request replacement doses by contacting the MedImmune FluMist® Quadrivalent Replacement Program by email ([flumistreplacement@mckesson.com](mailto:flumistreplacement@mckesson.com)) or phone (1-877-633-7375). Additional information can be found on <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/downloads/med-fm-rrf-instruct.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact the VFC Customer Service Center at 877-243-8832.

Are you not receiving VFC's emailed program letters and communications?

Visit our website at [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org) and log into MyVFCvaccines to check your email address. Also be sure to check your spam folder!