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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Sarah Royce, M.D., M.P.H., Chief   
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SUBJECT: 2018-2019 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Ordering Instructions

## SUMMARY

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons over 6 months of age, including 2 doses this season for some children younger than 8 years of age. A doctor's recommendation to receive flu vaccine is an important factor in a patient's decision to vaccinate. Offer influenza vaccines to all your VFC-eligible patients each flu season, which runs through the spring. The 2018-2019 Initial Flu Vaccine Order form for CA VFC providers is now available on your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account.

The VFC Program's online influenza (flu) ordering occurs in two phases:

- (1) **Initial Flu Vaccine Order:** The initial flu vaccine order confirmation system will be available from **August 8, 2018 to August 22, 2018** on [www.EZIZ.org](http://www.EZIZ.org). Log in to your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account to review, modify, and submit your practice's initial flu vaccine confirmation. The purpose of the initial flu vaccine order is to ensure that enrolled VFC practices have an initial supply for the 2018-2019 Flu Season.
- (2) **Supplemental Flu Vaccine Orders:** After August 22, 2018, the flu order system will close and will reopen in the fall for submission of supplemental orders. All VFC providers are expected to order additional doses as needed throughout the rest of influenza season, into spring 2019.

**IMPORTANT:** Doses not confirmed by providers by the **August 22, 2018 deadline** will be released into the supplemental flu vaccine supply. These doses will be available to all providers on a first-come, first-served basis during supplemental flu ordering.



## 2018-2019 VFC INFLUENZA PRODUCTS

Below is a list of all influenza products that will be available for ordering through the California VFC Program's Initial Flu Order system for the 2018-2019 season.

For the 6 months to 18 years age group, 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.

For providers primarily seeing adolescent patients, Flucelvax® will comprise a significant portion of doses available on their order form.

Age Group	Product	Presentation	Manufacturer	NDC Code
6 months - 18 years	Fluarix® ^	0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack^	GSK	58160-0898-52
	FluLaval® ^	0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack^	GSK	19515-0909-52
3-18 years	Fluzone® ^	5mL multi-dose vial	Sanofi	49281-0629-15
4-18 years	Flucelvax® +	0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack	Seqirus	70461-0318-03

*^ Preservative-free vaccines should be prioritized for administration to pregnant teens under 18 years of age but may also be used in children 3-18 years of age. According to the Health and Safety Code Section 124172, pregnant women or children younger than three years old may only receive vaccine doses that contain trace levels or no mercury.*

*+ Flucelvax® may not be used in patients younger than 4 years of age.*

## INITIAL FLU VACCINE ORDER CALCULATIONS FOR EACH VFC PROVIDER

VFC providers' initial orders for the 2018-2019 season were determined by usage of key pediatric and adolescent vaccines as reported by each practice through routine VFC vaccine orders and reported VFC-eligible populations.

This initial order ensures that each practice receives an adequate supply of VFC flu vaccine that aligns with the number of children who were immunized the past year. For most VFC providers, this initial order represents only a portion of VFC influenza doses that may be ordered throughout the season in order to support influenza vaccination at your practice. Therefore, if additional doses are needed after receipt and administration of initial doses, providers may order them as needed throughout the season, once supplemental ordering becomes available.

### 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. Practice profiles can be updated on [MyVFCVaccines](#).

## **KEY STEPS FOR CONFIRMING YOUR 2018-2019 INITIAL VFC FLU ORDER**

### **Consider Order Confirmation Timelines**

- Work with your clinic staff to submit your initial order by August 22, 2018.
- Once the online Flu Order Confirmation process begins, you will have approximately two weeks to review and confirm your initial flu order.

### **Determine Your Seasonal Flu Vaccine Needs**

As a VFC provider, we rely on you to have systems in place to identify and reach out to patients under your care to ensure they are vaccinated and protected each flu season. Influenza vaccine is routinely recommended for all VFC patients 6 months through 18 years of age; however, early patient outreach is particularly critical for patients at highest risk for influenza disease, including patients with underlying high-risk medical conditions, and children younger than 8 years of age needing to receive 2 doses of influenza vaccine for full protection prior to the peak of influenza activity - see additional information at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vax-summary.htm>.

Determine your initial flu vaccine need on the following factors:

- (1) number of VFC-eligible patients in your practice who have received other routine immunizations during the past year (obtain the number from your EHR, immunization registry, or usage logs),
- (2) age of scheduled patients – how many of your patients are recommended for two doses this season?
- (3) any planned reminder/recall influenza vaccination outreach efforts, and
- (4) the number of influenza vaccine doses that remained unused at the end of the 2017-2018 flu season.

### **Important Considerations**

Coordinated and complete immunization services within the medical home is a cornerstone of the Vaccines for Children Program. VFC providers agree to order and provide all age-appropriate ACIP-recommended vaccines, which includes annual influenza vaccine.

It is your responsibility to vaccinate your patients as part of routine and comprehensive care services. Do not refer your VFC-eligible patients elsewhere to receive their flu vaccine. In addition, outside facilities, such as pharmacies, may not be VFC-enrolled providers and your VFC-eligible patients may pay for a flu vaccine that they could have received at your practice at no cost.

## **Review your Clinic's Initial VFC Flu Order**

- Log in to your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account, click on the Flu Order button, and follow instructions to review and confirm your clinic's 2018-2019 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; additional doses should be ordered as needed throughout the season.
- 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.

Additional Step-by-Step instructions are outlined in the attached 2018-2019 Flu Order Confirmation Quick Guide.

## **NEXT STEPS AFTER CONFIRMING YOUR INITIAL VFC FLU ORDER**

### **VFC Review of Submitted Initial Flu Orders**

- The VFC Program will review initial flu requests and approve them based on available vaccine supply. Final approved initial flu order confirmations will be emailed to VFC Providers soon after.
- All confirmed initial flu orders will remain in queue until flu vaccine supplies are received at VFC's national vaccine distributor.

## **VFC INFLUENZA PROGRAM LETTER AND ACIP RECOMMENDATIONS**

The annual VFC Program Influenza letter, including detailed information regarding this season's 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, refer to the "2018-2019 Flu Order Confirmation FAQs" included with this communication. You can also contact your VFC Field Representative or visit our website, [www.EZIZ.org](http://www.EZIZ.org).

Enclosures:

2018-2019 Flu Order Confirmation Quick Guide  
2018-2019 Flu Order Confirmation FAQs