



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

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June 23, 2016

Important Update Regarding FluMist Availability through the VFC Program During the 2016-2017 Flu Season

Dear VFC Provider,

CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued a recommendation *not* to use LAIV, also known as the "nasal spray vaccine", during the 2016-2017 flu during this week's ACIP meeting. As a result of this recommendation, MedImmune's FluMist® will not be offered as part of the VFC Program during the 2016-2017 flu season.

CA's VFC Program will be working with CDC on the selection of alternative products to adjust pre-booked products for the state. Additional communications will be shared with VFC Providers regarding vaccine supply and Flu Order Confirmation process in the coming weeks.

Important key points about this update:

- This recommendation for not using LAIV this season was based on a review of LAIV's vaccine effectiveness (VE) information for the past 3 influenza seasons (2013-2016), showing poor and/or lower than expected vaccine effectiveness.
- ACIP continues to recommend annual flu vaccination, with either the inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) or recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV) for everyone 6 months and older.
- We recognize this recommendation has implications for Immunization Programs, school-based immunization efforts and vaccine providers, as most of the vaccine supply for the 2016-2017 season has already been pre-booked or pre-ordered. LAIV accounts for about 35% of CA's VFC's vaccine supply pre-booked for the 2016-2017 season (and about 8% of the total supply of flu vaccine in the US).
- Based on manufacturer projections, CDC expects that supply of injectable flu vaccine doses for the 2016-2017 season should be sufficient to meet any increase in demand resulting from ACIP's recommendation.
- For privately purchased doses, providers will need to consult with the manufacturer or vaccine distributor regarding pre-ordered vaccine.
- CDC Press regarding this recommendation can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/s0622-laiiv-flu.html>

If you have any questions, please contact your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Customer Service Center.

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