



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
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Severe Influenza Illness Reported: Ensure Your Patients are Protected

Dear VFC Provider,

The latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Influenza Summary report indicates that there have been increases in flu activity in the United States. Influenza is now widespread in California, resulting in many severe illnesses. More than twice as many influenza outbreaks have been reported in California when compared to recent seasons and flu-related deaths of children in California have been reported. Although the start and peak of most flu seasons vary in their timing year to year, most often flu peaks during the month of February.

Vaccination is the best way to protect against influenza. With many weeks of flu activity still ahead of us, it is important to make sure 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, 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 only offer reduced protection or no protection at all.

Ensure You Have Sufficient Flu Doses In Stock!

- VFC's Supplemental Flu Ordering continues to be available and adequate supplies are in stock for all flu products. Providers may submit additional supplemental flu orders as needed throughout the flu season as supply permits. Log in to your [MyVFCvaccines](#) account and click on the "Flu Order" button to access supplemental flu ordering.
- Your supplemental flu request will be shipped in full. Please ensure that your shipping hours are updated by logging in to your [MyVFCvaccines](#) account on EZIZ.org. Please also ensure that you can store all of the doses you request. Confirmed flu vaccine orders cannot be cancelled.

If you have any questions, please contact the VFC Program 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 and log into MyVFCvaccines to check your email address. Also be sure to check your spam folder!