



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
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Exemption to California's Thimersol Law for 2012-13 Flu Season

Dear VFC Program providers,

According to California law, pregnant women and children younger than 3 years old may only receive vaccines that contain no more than trace levels of mercury preservative, including the influenza vaccine. However, due to the increased influenza activity and the limited supply of influenza vaccine in the private sector, an exemption to this law was approved for the remainder of the 2012-13 flu season. California physicians may read the California Department of Public Health, [Immunization Branch letter](#) for more information about the exemption. Please contact the California Department of Public Health's Immunization Branch at (510) 620-3737 or visit the [California thimerosal law webpage](#), if you have additional questions.

The VFC Program still has doses of influenza vaccine, including preservative-free formulations, available for ordering through supplemental ordering:

Product	VFC Age Group	Supply
Fluzone® PF Pediatric Formulation, 0.25mL single dose syringes, Sanofi Pasteur	6-35 months	Available
Fluzone® 10 dose vials (5mL) Sanofi Pasteur	3-18 years	Available
Fluarix® PF Formulation 10 pack - 1 dose syringes (0.5mL), GSK	3-18 years	Available
FluMist, 10 pack-1 dose Intranasal Spray, MedImmune	Healthy 2-18 years	Available

IMPORTANT NOTE: VFC-supplied Influenza vaccine cannot be used for NON-eligible patients.

Also, remember to ensure that your practice is actively recalling children 8 years of age and younger to receive a 2nd dose of flu vaccine.

Would you like to receive VFC communications via e-mail?
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