



# Your VFC Mid-Season Flu Progress Report is Coming Soon!

Dear Provider,

Flu is [widespread](#) in California, and influenza-like illnesses (ILI) levels continue to be high (see image below). In addition, surveillance indicates that the influenza type B strain is circulating more than expected, which disproportionately impacts children. As of January 24, six pediatric deaths have been reported in our state. Needless to say, we urge you to continue immunizing your VFC patients to protect them against the dangers of influenza.

## Influenza Surveillance, January 12-18, 2020



### Elevated Activity Statewide

- **Deaths:** 149\* since Sept. 29, 2019
- **Outbreaks:** 52 since Sept. 29, 2019
- **Laboratory:** 32.0% flu positive
- **Outpatient ILI:** Above expected levels
- **Hospitalizations:** Above expected levels

\*Influenza-coded deaths from death certificates

## Flu Progress Report

In the next few days, we will be sending you your practice's **Mid-Season Flu Vaccine Ordering Progress Report**. We encourage you to share it with your

colleagues, including medical assistants, clinicians, and quality improvement (QI) staff. Your *Mid-Season Flu Vaccine Ordering Progress Report* will show progress toward your VFC Flu Vaccine Target as of January 24, 2020. We will send your *End-of-Season Report* in July 2020, indicating the percentage of your target met and subsequent rating (Excellent, Very Good, Good, Needs Improvement). VFC providers who achieve an “Excellent” rating by June 30, 2020 will be recognized on EZIZ.org. For your convenience, you can also view your reports in your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account.

## Top question from providers:

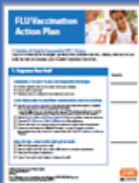
### How is my “VFC Flu Vaccine Target” determined?

The VFC Flu Vaccine Target is our estimate of the number of flu vaccine doses your practice needs to immunize and protect your VFC-eligible patients. Your target is based on the number of VFC-eligible patients your practice immunized against all other routine pediatric vaccines during the past year, as reported on your VFC vaccine orders.

## Flu Action Plan

If you are close to reaching your VFC flu vaccine target, congratulations! If not, there is still time to implement key strategies into your [flu action plan](#) now to help you succeed this season and prepare you for next season. Some of these key strategies include:

1. **routinely recommend flu vaccine—don’t ask parents if they want their child to be immunized,**
2. **identify patients still due for flu vaccine,** and
3. **recall patients due for their first or second dose of flu vaccine.**



### Has your practice used the flu action plan yet?

VFC wants to hear all about it! Share your success stories, strategies selected, and other feedback by replying to this email.

## Ordering Flu Vaccine

Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged  $\geq 6$  months. There is still time to order and administer more VFC flu vaccine, along with other routinely recommended immunizations for your patients! Every visit is an opportunity to protect your patients. If you are concerned about having too much flu vaccine in the refrigerator, keep in mind that you can order as little as 10 doses per week. Administer flu vaccine until the last dose expires, usually in June. We are confident that taking even small steps today will result in vast improvement tomorrow. Our VFC team supports you in protecting California's kids against influenza!