Dear EZIZ Users:

Last week the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted that live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as the “nasal spray” flu vaccine, should not be used during the 2016-2017 flu season. This recommendation for not using LAIV this season is based on data from recent seasons (2013-2016) showing poor or lower than expected vaccine effectiveness.

As of June 30, 2016 the availability of LAIV this autumn is unknown. However, in light of ACIP’s recommendation, MedImmune’s FluMist® will not be offered as part of the California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program during the 2016-2017 flu season. We recognize this recommendation has implications for Immunization Programs, school-based immunization efforts and vaccine providers, as most of the vaccine supply for the upcoming flu season has already been pre-booked or pre-ordered.

California’s VFC Program will be working with CDC to replace doses of LAIV with alternatives. Based on manufacturer projections, CDC expects that supply of injectable flu vaccine doses for the 2016-2017 season should be sufficient to accommodate any changes resulting from ACIP’s recommendation. Information on which distributors are still accepting pre-booking orders for flu vaccine products can be found here.

ACIP continues to recommend annual flu vaccination with products other than LAIV for everyone 6 months and older. Vaccination is the single best way to prevent influenza, and resulting complications, including hospitalizations and death. Check out EZIZ’s Flu and Respiratory Disease Prevention Promotional materials to start planning for the upcoming flu season.