



## California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program 2020-2021 Seasonal Influenza Pre-Book Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Pre-book?

- Pre-book is the first of three phases in the 2020-21 VFC Flu order process. During this phase, all providers are required to pre-book flu doses with us for the upcoming 2020-21 flu season by determining their total vaccine need and submitting a request. This will guide our pre-booking with CDC.

### Why do I have to pre-book for the 2020-2021 influenza season when the 2019-2020 season is not even over?

- The California VFC Program is required to submit its annual influenza vaccine supply pre-book to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the upcoming 2020-2021 flu season February 2020.
- The number of doses requested by California VFC providers during the 2020-2021 Influenza Pre-Book process is used to guide the California VFC Program to know how many doses will be needed in the upcoming season to adequately support providers in their efforts to ensure that all VFC eligible patients are provided their annual influenza vaccination.

### When is pre-book due?

- To ensure we have adequate time to prepare the amount of doses to pre-book with CDC by February, we are asking all providers to complete pre-book requests by Friday, January 31, 2020.

### Where do I go to pre-book doses?

- You can pre-book doses by logging in to your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account and clicking the "Submit Flu Pre-book" button.

### What is the "Season Target"? How is this calculated?

- The VFC Flu Vaccine Target is VFC's estimate of the number of flu vaccine doses your practice needs to immunize and protect all 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 in 2019.
- Newly enrolled providers with limited or no order data from 2019 may not see a season target on the pre-book form. Order the amount of vaccine that you anticipate you will need to vaccinate all your VFC-eligible patients.

### Am I required to request the full season target?

- No, you are not required to request the full season target. However, if the amount requested is less than half of the season target, you will be required to provide an explanation for the reduction.



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- Keep in mind, your Season Target is based on the number of routine pediatric vaccines your practice administered to your patients, therefore if your patients are receiving other vaccines, they should also get the flu vaccine.

### **Can I request more than the season target?**

- Yes, you may request more than the season target.
- Submitted pre-book requests will be reviewed, and requests significantly more than the season target may be reduced.

### **Why are multi-dose vials not available to pre-book for the 2020-2021 influenza season?**

- Over the last several influenza seasons the California VFC Program has noticed that providers have been moving away from requesting multi-dose vials and are increasingly requesting preservative-free syringes that can be used on all VFC eligible patients older than 6 months through 18 years of age.
- There is also limited temperature stability data available for multi-dose vials, often resulting in unnecessary vaccine loss.

### **Why am I limited to ordering only one product for the 6 months through 18 years age group?**

- The primary reason for the provider pre-book process is to assist the California VFC Program with determining the total amount of influenza vaccine that will be needed to support providers' vaccination efforts for the entire 2020-2021 Influenza season.
- The secondary reason for the provider pre-book process is to obtain providers brand preference. If all brands are requested, it makes it difficult to determine the true preferred brand.
- Although there are 3 available brands for the 6 months through 18 years age group, they all have identical presentations as quadrivalent 0.5mL pre-filled syringes. There is no specific evidence that indicates one brand should be used over the others.

### **Why am I required to enter a request for a product for the 6 months through 18 years age group?**

- Providers who have reported in their annual Recertification that they will be providing immunization services to patients less than one years old must have an influenza product that can be used on these patients. These providers will be required to order a product that can be used on all of their VFC eligible patients 6 months through 18 years of age.

### **How will I know that my pre-book request has been submitted and received by VFC?**

- Upon submission a copy of the print page will be emailed to the Vaccine Coordinator, Backup Vaccine Coordinator and the person who submitted the form.
- The email confirmation is your confirmation that your request was received by VFC.



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## **How can I view a copy of my submitted request?**

- A copy of the submitted request is emailed to the Vaccine Coordinator, Backup Vaccine Coordinator and the person who submitted the form.
- If you did not receive the email confirmation, contact VFC Customer Service to have a copy of your request emailed to you.

## **Will I be guaranteed to receive the product(s) that I requested for the 2020-2021 influenza season?**

- A final confirmation with the number of approved pre-booked doses by brand will be emailed to providers late spring.
- Actual products that will be available for 2020-2021 VFC Flu Ordering will be dependent upon demand, product availability, and doses approved by the CDC.

## **When will I receive my pre-booked doses?**

- In July/August, the Initial Order system will open for all providers to request a portion of their confirmed pre-book doses.
- A portion of the doses from your confirmed pre-book will be available for your practice to request to have automatically shipped in August/September as VFC receives doses at the national distributor, McKesson Specialty.
- After initial orders have been shipped, the remainder of doses pre-booked should be proactively ordered through the flu order system. Orders can be placed weekly.