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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

FROM: Sarah Royce, M.D., M.P.H., Chief   
Center for Infectious Diseases  
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Planning for the 2018-2019 VFC Flu Season

This year's influenza season is just around the corner! The California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is preparing for 2018-2019 VFC influenza vaccine ordering.

Please refer to the following information to assist you as you form your influenza vaccination plans for your practice in order to ensure all children and adolescents in your practice are protected.

Influenza vaccine is a routinely recommended vaccine for all people 6 months and older. Some children will need two doses of seasonal influenza vaccine. As a health care professional, your strong vaccine recommendation will ensure that your patients are protected against influenza disease.

### **2018-2019 VFC FLU VACCINE BRAND AVAILABILITY**

The following products make up the VFC flu vaccine supply for the 2018-2019 Influenza season. Although overall vaccine supply is adequate to meet provider needs, doses available under each brand are limited. Therefore, brand preference will not be available for providers as in previous years. Instead, providers will be assigned a specific brand product for their practice once VFC influenza vaccine ordering is available later this summer.

Below is a list of all influenza products that will be available for ordering through the California VFC Program's Initial Flu Order system for the 2018-2019 season.

California Vaccines for Children Program  
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Richmond, CA 94804  
(877) 243-8832 ♦ FAX (877) 329-9832 ♦ Internet Address: [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org)



Age Group	Product	Presentation	Manufacturer	NDC Code
6 months - 18 years	Fluarix® ^	0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack^	GSK	58160-0898-52
	FluLaval® ^	0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack^	GSK	19515-0909-52
3-18 years	Fluzone® ^	5mL multi-dose vial	Sanofi	49281-0629-15
	Flucelvax® +	0.5mL single dose syringe, 10 pack	Seqirus	70461-0318-03
6-35 months	Pediatric Fluzone® (limited doses may be available for ordering later in the season)	0.25mL single dose syringe, 10 pack^	Sanofi	49281-0518-25

*^ Preservative-free vaccines should be prioritized for administration to pregnant teens under 18 years of age but may also be used in children 3-18 years of age. According to the Health and Safety Code Section 124172, pregnant women or children younger than three years old may only receive vaccine doses that contain trace levels or no mercury.*

*+ Flucelvax may not be used in patients younger than 4 years of age.*

#### Supply highlights:

- For the 6 months to 18 years age group, Fluarix® and FluLaval® doses make up a great percent of the state's VFC flu vaccine supply. Both products have the same age indication and packaging. Practices will be assigned either of these products and will not be able to request a switch or to order both products.
- For providers primarily seeing adolescent patients, Flucelvax® will comprise a significant portion of doses available on their order form.
- Additional influenza products will be made available during the supplemental ordering phase shortly after and may include limited supplies of 0.25mL Pediatric Fluzone®.
- FluMist® will not be offered through the CA VFC Program during the 2018-2019 Influenza Season. Unfortunately, our vaccine purchase commitment for CA's VFC influenza vaccine supply had already been finalized when FluMist® later became available; FluMist® purchases could not substitute already committed products.

#### INITIAL ORDERS

The California VFC Program will launch the 2018-2019 Influenza Initial Order System in August 2018. The purpose of the initial flu order is to get your practice started with an initial supply for the 2018-2019 Flu Season.

It is expected that you will proactively order additional doses as needed throughout the season in supplemental flu ordering.

Initial orders will be guided by each clinic's usage of key pediatric and adolescent vaccines as reported through routine VFC vaccine orders. This is to ensure that each practice receives an adequate supply of VFC flu doses in alignment with the number of children that may have been immunized during the past year, as well as reported VFC-eligible populations.

As in previous flu seasons, providers will receive their flu vaccine doses in multiple shipments throughout the season. Influenza vaccine supplies for different manufacturers arrive at VFC's national vaccine distributor at different times and in multiple shipments throughout the season.

Additional instructions regarding the initial VFC flu order will be provided when the ordering system becomes available in August 2018.

### **INFLUENZA VACCINATION PLANS**

Begin forming your influenza vaccination plans to ensure all children and adolescents in your practice are protected. Review the number of VFC-eligible children in your practice, review influenza vaccination schedules, assess the available space in your vaccine storage unit to ensure proper storage, etc.

Please refer to the attached guide to assist your practice as you gear up for this influenza season.

If you have any questions about VFC Program requirements, please contact the VFC Program at 877-2GET-VFC (877-243-8832) or your local VFC Field Representative.

Enclosures: Get Your Practice Ready for Your 2018-2019 Initial Flu Vaccine Order