



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
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Important VFC Flu Vaccine Update

Dear VFC Provider,

Winter is just a few weeks away! As we enter cold, wintery months, please make sure your patients are protected against influenza. Generally, flu activity peaks between December and February, though it may last through spring. So, take every opportunity to make a flu vaccination assessment and recommendation at every visit. It makes a difference!

Mark Your Calendars! December 2-8 is National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW)

- NIVW highlights the importance of continuing flu vaccination through the holiday season and beyond. Join us, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and healthcare providers around the nation in voicing the importance of flu vaccination, and encourage flu vaccination of everyone 6 months and older.
- Register and participate on the [#HowIRecommend Flu Vaccine Webinar: December 5th, 2018 at 10 am Pacific Time](#). This webinar will be focused on better understanding the severity and burden of last year's flu season and why flu vaccine is so important. On this webinar, you will get tips on how to make stronger and effective recommendations to your patients.

VFC Vaccine Supply Information

- Influenza vaccine doses for VFC eligible children may be ordered through VFC's Supplemental Ordering system throughout influenza season. Vaccine brand and doses may vary depending on available supply.
 - Products currently available:
 - *Pediatric Fluzone® 0.25mL single dose syringes (Sanofi),*
 - *Fluzone® 5mL multi-dose vials (Sanofi),*
 - *Flucelvax® 0.5mL single dose syringes (Seqirus)*

Check out the new [Influenza Vaccine Resources](#) page on EZIZ.org

- Products available but in limited supply:
 - *FluLaval[®] 0.5mL single dose syringes (GSK)*
 - *Fluarix[®] 0.5mL single dose syringes (GSK).*
- Due to limited supply of FluLaval[®] and Fluarix[®], providers are encouraged to:
 - Restock supply for children 6-35 months by ordering available Fluzone[®] 0.25mL single dose vials.
 - Restock supply for patients 4 years of age and older, by ordering Flucelvax[®]
 - Prioritize the use of Fluzone[®] multi-dose vials and limited doses of FluLaval or Fluarix[®] for patients 3-4 years old in the practice.

Medi-Cal Billing System Issues

- VFC has been receiving a number of provider reports related to vaccine administration claim denials for pediatric influenza vaccines; specifically, FluLaval[®] and Fluarix[®] vaccine administration to children under 3 years of age (CPT 90686 and 90688)
- Medi-Cal is aware of the billing limitation for both these vaccines and is currently working on implementing system policy changes to correct this error.
- Please continue to protect your patients against influenza, and do not defer or delay vaccination. It is our understanding that they will allow retroactive billing reimbursements for these corrected policies. A provider bulletin will be sent when the change in policies are implemented. However, for more information about billing, timing of the correction, or additional questions, please contact your [Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan](#) directly.