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GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

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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: 2019-2020 VFC Influenza Vaccine Ordering Instructions

SUMMARY

Earlier this year, VFC providers had the opportunity to pre-book the total number of flu vaccine doses needed for the 2019-2020 flu season, indicating a preferred brand preference. Overall VFC Pre-book information (vaccine brands and doses requested) was taken into consideration for determining California's influenza vaccine supply for the upcoming season. This was considered the first of 3 phases for this year's flu order process.

The second phase of California's VFC Program influenza vaccine order process is now available. The 2019-2020 Initial Flu Vaccine Order form for California VFC providers is available on your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account. Utilize the Initial Flu Vaccine Order Form to inform the VFC Program how many doses your practice would like to receive out of your approved pre-booked amounts as part of your initial shipments. Submit your Initial Flu Vaccine Order by August 9, 2019.

2019-2020 VFC FLU VACCINE ORDER PROCESS

This year's flu order process for California's VFC Program has 3 main phases:

1. Pre-Book (Completed)

Final approved pre-book confirmation emails were sent to providers last month, containing the number and type of flu vaccine products approved for your practice. Approved pre-booked doses will constitute your vaccine supply for the entire season. Please note that no changes can be accommodated as doses have already been pre-booked through the CDC.



2. Initial Flu Vaccine Order *(Now available!)*

The purpose of the initial flu vaccine order is to ensure that enrolled VFC providers have an initial vaccine supply to begin vaccination efforts for the 2019-2020 Flu Season. In this phase, your practice can request the portion of pre-booked flu doses you would like to receive from VFC upfront (usually processed in multiple shipments once supply becomes available in the fall).

Log in to your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account to access the initial flu vaccine order confirmation system and confirm the amount of flu doses your practice would like to receive as part of your initial flu supply. Please keep the following in mind:

- Providers may only order the flu vaccine products approved for their practice as indicated during pre-book.
- For providers that did not submit a pre-book, flu vaccine products have been allocated to their practice based on remaining supply available. No brand switching will be allowed.
- The maximum number of doses that may be requested for the initial flu vaccine order will be displayed by brand and by age group.
- Providers cannot request doses in excess of the maximum initial order but may reduce the number of doses requested per brand.
- Given limited supply of FluMist[®], providers that pre-booked this product may receive a different product than originally requested.

3. Orders for remaining doses *(Available once initial shipments are completed)*

The remaining amount of flu vaccine doses that you have pre-booked (or what has been allocated to you if did not confirm during pre-book) will be available throughout the 2019-2020 season. As described below, we expect that you will proactively order and draw down from your “season target” amount in order to vaccinate and protect all your VFC-eligible patients against flu. After all initial orders have been shipped, the VFC Program will notify all providers when to begin ordering your remaining pre-booked or allocated doses.

As with initial flu vaccine orders, no requests for brand switching will be allowed. If you need to request additional doses beyond what you have pre-booked or what was allocated to your practice, a justification may be required. After VFC Program review and approval, any additional doses provided will be based on available supply and product(s) may differ from what you have initially received.

SEASON TARGETS

Starting this year, we have set seasonal influenza vaccine administration targets for each VFC provider. The season 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 routine pediatric vaccines during the past year. Your approved pre-book amount or allocation is your practice's assigned "season target."

We strongly encourage every VFC provider to review this target, monitor influenza vaccine administration in conjunction with all routine vaccines, and encourage every practice team member to become a champion for influenza vaccination. For tools and resources to help your practice, go to the California VFC website EZIZ.org.

NEWLY ENROLLED PROVIDERS

Newly enrolled providers with limited usage as reported through routine VFC vaccine orders or no vaccine distribution history will have a limited number of doses available for the initial flu vaccine order.

Providers may contact the VFC Customer Service Center or their VFC Field Representative if their VFC-eligible patient population has significantly increased since their enrollment date. Practice profiles can be updated on MyVFCVaccines.

2019-2020 VFC FLU VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

As in previous flu seasons, providers will receive their flu vaccine doses in multiple shipments throughout the season. Influenza vaccine supplies from different manufacturers arrive at VFC's national vaccine distributor at different times and in multiple shipments throughout the season, which is why flu vaccine cannot be shipped to providers all at once. All confirmed initial flu orders will remain in queue until flu vaccine supplies are received at VFC's national vaccine distributor.

Below is the anticipated timeline in which the distribution of flu products will begin. Keep in mind that this information is only an estimated timeframe, and the timeline may change as the 2019-2020 flu season begins.

| Manufacturer | Distribution Estimated to Begin |
|---------------------|--|
| GSK | August |
| Sanofi | September |
| AstraZeneca | September |
| Seqirus | August |

PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITY

Coordinated and complete immunization services within the medical home is a cornerstone of the Vaccines for Children Program. VFC providers agree to order and provide all age-appropriate [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) recommended vaccines](#), which include annual influenza vaccine.

It is your responsibility to vaccinate your patients as part of routine and comprehensive care services. Do not refer your VFC-eligible patients elsewhere to receive their flu vaccine. In addition, outside facilities, such as pharmacies, are likely not VFC-enrolled providers, and your VFC-eligible patients may be charged for a flu vaccine that they could have received at your practice at no cost.

VFC INFLUENZA PROGRAM LETTER AND ACIP RECOMMENDATIONS

The ACIP recommends routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons over 6 months of age, including 2 doses for some children younger than 8 years of age. A doctor's strong recommendation to receive flu vaccine is an important factor in a patient's decision to vaccinate. Routinely offer influenza vaccines to all your VFC-eligible patients.

The annual VFC Program Influenza letter, including detailed information regarding this season's ACIP influenza vaccination recommendations, product dosage and administration, storage and handling guidelines, and other important information, will be released once recommendations are published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please call the VFC Customer Service Center at 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC).

For frequently asked questions, refer to the "2019-2020 Flu Order Confirmation FAQs" included with this communication. You can also contact your VFC Field Representative or visit our website, www.EZIZ.org.

Enclosures:
2019-2020 Flu Order Confirmation Quick Guide
2019-2020 Flu Order Confirmation FAQs