



# Pre-Book VFC Flu Vaccine for the Upcoming 2021-2022 Influenza Season

Dear VFC Provider,

The California VFC Program is preparing for the upcoming 2021-2022 influenza season by launching Phase One of the 2021-2022 VFC flu vaccine order process. The California VFC Program is determining its annual influenza vaccine supply to pre-book through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For us to consider your practice's brand preference and the total number of doses your practice needs for the entire flu season, each participating VFC provider must complete a 2021-2022 CA VFC Flu Vaccine Pre-book for their practice. This process will determine the total vaccine need and the amount of each flu vaccine product to support the California VFC Program's vaccination efforts for the entire 2021-2022 Influenza season.

## **PRE-BOOK BY FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

Pre-book requests for your 2021-2022 VFC flu vaccine must be submitted no later than **February 4, 2021**. Due to the short turnaround time for California to pre-book flu doses from the CDC, **we will not be able to offer any extensions beyond this due date.** If pre-book requests are not submitted on time, VFC will allocate doses and brands for ordering based on available products which may not align with your organization's preference. To prevent this, submit your pre-book requests prior to the deadline. Brand switching will not be allowed after this deadline.

## **VFC FLU VACCINE TARGET**

In order to facilitate your pre-book process, VFC will provide your 2021-2022 VFC Flu Vaccine Target. The VFC Flu Vaccine 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 all other routine pediatric vaccines during the past year, as reported on your VFC vaccine orders.

Use this information, along with your clinic's data for VFC-eligible patients in your practice, to guide your clinic's vaccine need for the 2021-2022 season. Please remember that every patient 6 months and older is recommended to receive an influenza vaccine annually. Some children 8 years of age and younger may need two doses.

## **2021-2022 PRE-BOOK PROCESS**

Utilize the VFC Flu Pre-Book Worksheet to prepare your request prior to accessing the online pre-book form. When ready, log-in to your [MyVFCvaccines](#) account and click on the "Pre-book Flu Vaccine for 2021-2022" button.

### **Step 1 – Review Your Seasonal Influenza Data**

- Run flu usage reports (registry/EHR) for the current influenza season.
- Run patient population reports, by age and eligibility (refer to your clinic's 2021 VFC Recertification for patient estimates).
- Determine how many patients will need more than one dose.
- Ensure that the number of doses pre-booked will be enough to immunize and protect all your VFC-eligible patients against the flu for the entire season.

### **Step 2 – Review VFC-provided Flu Vaccine Target**

- Confirm the number of doses needed for the entire 2021-2022 season.
- Although you are not required to request the full season target, if the doses confirmed is significantly less than the season target, you will be required to provide a reason for the reduction.

- For newly enrolled providers the season target may not reflect the total doses that will be needed for the season. If necessary, you may request doses beyond the season target.

### **Step 3 – Allocate Seasonal Doses by Age Groups Served and Brand Preference**

- Indicate brand preference for ALL doses that will be needed for the entire 2021-2022 season.
- Based on your patient population, order products licensed for that age group.
- When selecting your clinic’s brand preference, ensure that your selection aligns with your organization’s brand preference. Once submitted, brand switching will not be allowed.
- All fields must be filled out. If no doses are requested for a brand, enter 0.

**IMPORTANT:** This is NOT your order for initial flu shipments.

### **PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR PRE-BOOK**

A number of pediatric vaccine products will be available as part of VFC’s 2021-2022 Flu Pre-book process for providers to indicate a brand preference. See table below. Before completing your clinic’s pre-book online, review available products with practice clinicians and your organization. Determine product(s) to request based on your patient population, and order products licensed for that age group.

**IMPORTANT:** Actual products that will be available for 2021-2022 VFC Flu Ordering will be dependent upon demand, product availability, and doses approved by the CDC.

Highlights for products included in 2021-2022 Pre-book:

- Includes several options for products with the same presentation and dosage for all patients 6 months through 18 years of age. You can select either Fluarix®, FluLaval®, or Fluzone® but not all three.

Only reserve what you will need and will use for the entire 2021-2022 flu season.

Age Group	Product	Presentation	Manufacturer
6 months-18 years	Fluarix® *	Inactivated, Quadrivalent, No Preservative, 0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack*	GSK
6 months-18 years	FluLaval® *	Inactivated, Quadrivalent, No Preservative, 0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack*	GSK
6 months-18 years	Fluzone® *	Inactivated, Quadrivalent, No Preservative, 0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack*	Sanofi
2-18 years	Flumist®	Live Attenuated, Quadrivalent, 0.20mL nasal sprayer	AstraZeneca

*\*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.*

**TIMELINE AFTER SUBMITTING PRE-BOOK**

**VFC Review of Pre-Book Requests**

After February 4, 2021, the California VFC Program will review 2021-2022 Flu Pre-Book requests to determine how many doses of each product to order from CDC.

**Final Pre-Book Approval Confirmation (early 2021)**

Once the VFC Program’s pre-booked doses are approved by the CDC, VFC will send final approved pre-book confirmation emails containing the number and type of flu vaccine products approved for your practice. Final pre-book approval confirmations may or may not be different from what your practice had pre-booked, depending on product availability approved by the CDC. No changes can be accommodated once approved, and final pre-booked doses will constitute your vaccine supply for the entire season. Remember, you are responsible for ordering your confirmed allocation in the second and third phases of the flu vaccine order process.

**Phase Two – Initial Flu Orders (July – August)**

Providers are expected to submit initial flu order shipment confirmations later this summer, in which your practice can request the portion of pre-booked flu doses you would like VFC to ship to your practice when doses are

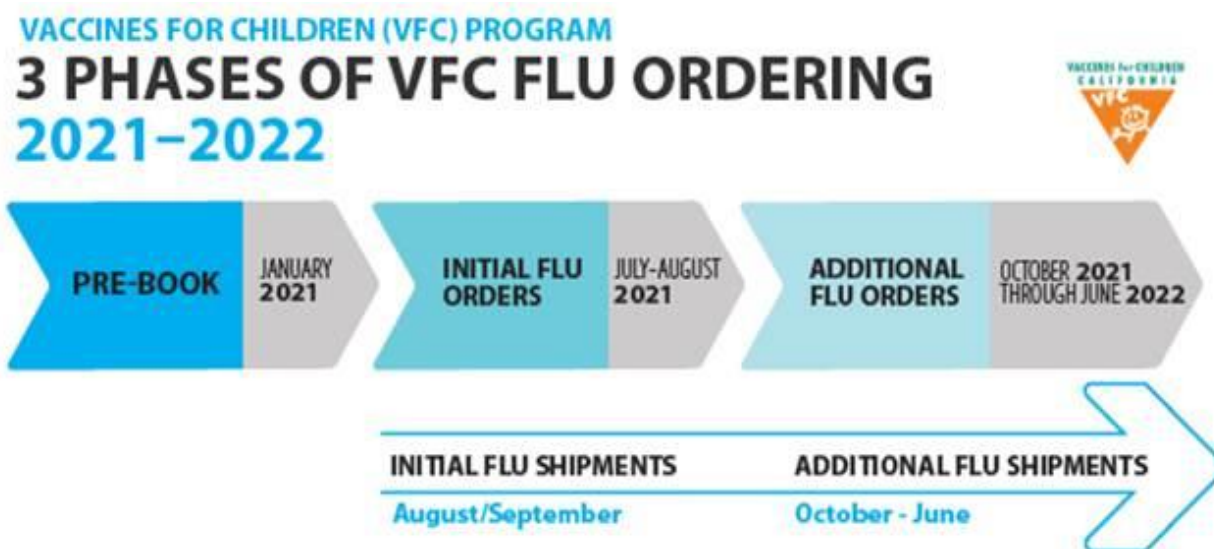
received at VFC's national vaccine distributor. A communication will be sent once you can begin confirming your initial 2021-2022 flu vaccine order.

### **Initial Shipments (September-October)**

As in previous seasons, Initial orders are usually processed in multiple shipments once supply becomes available in the fall. Influenza vaccine doses arrive at VFC's national vaccine distributor at different times and in multiple shipments throughout the season, therefore flu vaccine cannot be shipped to providers all at once.

### **Phase Three – Additional Flu Vaccine Orders (October)**

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.



### **CURRENT 2020-2021 FLU SEASON**

VFC flu pre-book requests for the 2021-2022 season will not affect your vaccine request for the current 2020-2021 season. Our current flu season is not over yet. Influenza activity is still occurring throughout California. Continue to reach out to children and adolescents in your practice, especially those with a higher risk of severe influenza illness, who have not yet received their influenza vaccine this season. Review your VFC Flu Progress Reports sent in October 2020 and January 2021 to monitor your progress in reaching your VFC Flu Vaccine Target and continue to place additional flu vaccine orders as needed.

**QUESTIONS?**

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

**Thank you,**