



December 2, 2022

# VFC Holiday Operation Hours, Vaccine Supply, and Recertification Updates

## VFC Flu Vaccine Ordering

Continue to order the remaining balance of influenza vaccine your practice pre-booked or were allocated for the 2022-2023 season. As a reminder, flu vaccine usage and inventory are required with every VFC vaccine order (both flu and non-flu vaccine orders). The flu order form will always display before you can access the routine vaccine order form so that you can report flu vaccine usage and inventory. This must be reported even if you do not plan on requesting additional influenza vaccine doses.

## FluMist® Quadrivalent Replacement Program

The FluMist Quadrivalent Replacement Program allows for the replacement of unused, expiring FluMist Quadrivalent doses, at no cost, to help you maximize product usage opportunities! Please follow the detailed instructions in their letter ([also posted on EZIZ](#)) to take advantage of this Program. Requests can be made starting at 5 am PST on Thursday, December 1, 2022, through Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 5 pm PST.

Please note: privately purchased doses are not eligible for this Program. Product expiration date must be on or before January 31, 2023. Doses will be replaced while supplies last.

## New Vaccines Available and Coming Soon!

Vaxneuvance™ (Pneumococcal 15-valent Conjugate Vaccine, Merck) is now available for VFC Providers to order through their MyVFCVaccines account. Please read the [clinical letter](#) for further details about this new vaccine product, prior to requesting doses as part of your regular VFC vaccine order.

PRIORIX™ (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccine, Live, GSK) is coming soon. We will send a clinical letter with more information on the new vaccine prior to making it available for ordering the week of December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please check our website under the VFC Program Letters section for updates.

Whenever you plan to introduce a new vaccine to your practice, remember to review updated immunization schedules, vaccine storage and handling guidance, and administration documentation with all practice staff. Additionally, please complete the [“Provider Request Form to Update Vaccine Brand Products Administered”](#) (IMM-1377) prior to submission of your next VFC vaccine order to expedite order processing.

## **2023 VFC Recertification Coming Soon**

Are you ready to complete the recertification process for your VFC Provider locations? We are working on updating our system prior to opening the recertification period for 2023. In the meantime, please ensure your provider profile information is up to date. For example, if you are enrolled in a California Immunization Information System ([CAIR](#) or [RIDE/Healthy Futures](#)), please ensure your registry ID is added to your profile.

## **Customer Service Center Closures**

The VFC Customer Service Center will be closed on the following dates:

- Tuesday, December 6, 2022 (All-Staff Meeting)
- Friday, December 23, 2022 (Christmas Eve Holiday observed)
- Monday, December 26, 2022 (Christmas Day Holiday observed)

Orders will continue to be received during these call center closures. Normal business hours will resume after each event.

## **Holiday Shipping Schedule**

There will be limited shipping the last two weeks of December (12/19 through 12/31/22). The VFC Program’s National Vaccine Distributor, McKesson Specialty, and Merck (shipments of varicella-containing vaccines) will not ship routine vaccines for delivery on the following dates:

- Friday, December 23, 2022 (Christmas Eve Observance)
- Monday, December 26, 2022 (Christmas Day Observance)
- Tuesday, December 27, 2022

- Monday, January 2, 2023 (New Year's Day Observance)
- Tuesday, January 3, 2023
- Monday, January 16, 2023 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday)

## Key Order Submission and Receipt Cut-off Dates

Order By*	Receive By
Thursday, December 8	Thursday, December 15

\*Please note, orders must be approved by the VFC Program by the above "Order By" date

Normal shipping resumes on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, for deliveries Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and beyond. We will continue to receive orders throughout these blackout dates and process for shipping based on the above dates.

**IMPORTANT: If your site plans to close temporarily for the holidays, please wait to submit your vaccine order upon your return. Update your shipping hours to reflect your closure to prevent any shipping incidents that could lead to vaccine waste.**

For any questions, please call the VFC Customer Service Center at (877) 243-8832 or visit our [website](#) for important VFC Program communications and information.

Thank you,



California Department of Public Health | Immunization Branch  
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program  
850 Marina Bay Parkway  
Richmond, CA 94804  
Phone: 877-2GET-VFC (877-243-8832)  
Fax: 877-FAXX-VFC (877-329-9832)  
Email: [MyVFCVaccines@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:MyVFCVaccines@cdph.ca.gov)