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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., Chief   
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SUBJECT: VFC 2022-2023 Initial Flu Vaccine Orders



**Key Takeaways:**

- ✓ Initial orders of VFC influenza vaccine (50% of the total pre-booked) have been placed. As usual, initial orders will be sent in multiple shipments this fall.
- ✓ No further action is required by providers who pre-booked in January.
- ✓ For providers who did not pre-book, please submit your initial orders by **August 05, 2022**; Brand preference cannot be accommodated in these orders.

**PROTECT YOUR PATIENTS AGAINST INFLUENZA AND COVID-19**

Initial Flu Vaccine Ordering for the California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is now available. The purpose of the initial flu vaccine order is to ensure that VFC providers have supplies to begin vaccination efforts for the 2022-2023 Flu Season.

Both influenza and COVID-19 remain a threat. Combine your efforts to vaccinate and protect your patients against both influenza and COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines can be administered concurrently with other routine vaccines, including influenza. Most pharmacies in California cannot vaccinate patients younger than 3 years old, so it is critical that your younger patients receive their influenza and COVID-19 vaccines at their medical home. Enroll now in the COVID-19 Vaccine Program through [myCavax](https://myCavax.org) if you are not already ordering and administering COVID-19 vaccines.

**INITIAL FLU VACCINE ORDERS**

Initial orders will be sent in multiple shipments once vaccine arrives during the fall at our national vaccine distributor, McKesson. To prepare for initial vaccine shipments, follow the instructions below.



#### For providers that pre-booked doses in January 2022:

During the first phase of VFC's Flu Order Process in January, VFC providers had the opportunity to pre-book the total number of flu vaccine doses needed for the 2022-2023 flu season, indicating a preferred brand.

- The VFC Program has placed your initial order on your behalf, which is 50% of what your practice pre-booked.
- **No further action is required to receive your initial order unless** you would like to receive *less* than 50% of what you pre-booked.
  - **NOTE:** Your initial order will not arrive all at once. It will arrive in multiple shipments as flu vaccine arrives at our national vaccine distributor.

#### For providers that did NOT pre-book doses in January 2022:

- Login to your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account to access the 2022-2023 Initial Flu Vaccine Order form and submit your Initial Flu Vaccine order by August 5, 2022.
- Product(s) allocated are based on remaining supply, so brand preference cannot be accommodated.
- The maximum number of doses that may be requested for the initial flu vaccine order is 50% of your practice's Season Target. This will be displayed by brand and by age group.
- You may request more doses during the third phase of the VFC Flu Order Process in the fall.

### **ADDITIONAL ORDERS IN THE FALL**

The third phase of the VFC Flu Order Process will begin in the fall once all initial orders have shipped. During this phase, the remaining amount of flu vaccine doses that your practice has pre-booked will be available to your practice throughout the 2022-2023 season. The VFC Program will notify all providers when they may begin ordering additional flu vaccine in the fall.

### **SEASON TARGETS**

As in the previous flu season, we have set seasonal influenza vaccine administration targets based on the number of VFC-eligible patients your practice immunized with routine pediatric vaccines during the past year, using usage information provided on routine orders.

### **NEWLY ENROLLED PROVIDERS**

Newly enrolled providers without any vaccine distribution history, or with limited usage as reported through routine VFC vaccine orders, will have a limited number of doses available for the initial flu vaccine order. New providers can contact the VFC Customer Service Center or VFC Field Representative if their VFC-eligible patient population has significantly increased since their enrollment date. Practice profiles can be updated on [MyVFCVaccines](#).

## 2022-2023 CALIFORNIA VFC FLU VACCINE PRODUCTS

Age Group	Product	Presentation – (ALL SINGLE DOSE)	Manufacturer	NDC Code
6 months - 18 years	Fluarix®	0.5mL syringe, 10 pack	GSK	58160-0890-52
	Flucelvax®	0.5mL syringe, 10 pack	Seqirus	70461-0322-03
	FluLaval®	0.5mL syringe, 10 pack	GSK	19515-0808-52
	Fluzone®	0.5mL syringe, 10 pack	Sanofi	49281-0422-50
2-18 years	FluMist®	0.2mL intranasal sprayer	AstraZeneca	66019-0309-10

**IMPORTANT:** You may only order product(s) approved from your pre-book or allocated to your practice. No changes to brand preferences can be accommodated, as doses have already been pre-booked through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additional doses requested later in the season, beyond what your practice pre-booked, will be based on remaining vaccine supply and may differ from what you originally pre-booked. Ensure that your practice's electronic health systems have the capacity to accept all flu products offered above.

## 2022-2023 VFC FLU VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

Vaccine supplies are expected to begin arriving at VFC's national vaccine distributor in late August or September. Keep in mind:

- Providers will receive their initial flu vaccine doses in multiple shipments throughout the season, as vaccine arrives at VFC's national vaccine distributor.
- Influenza vaccine supplies from different manufacturers arrive at different times; therefore, most initial flu orders cannot ship in full.
- VFC will send communications prior to each shipment notifying providers of the percentages of vaccine that will be shipped based on what is available.
- Vaccine Coordinators will receive emails confirming vaccine brand and quantity shipped prior to each shipment.

**IMPORTANT:** Immediately notify the VFC Program and update your clinic hours to reflect any changes to prevent vaccine spoilage.

## STRATEGIES TO USE IN YOUR [FLU ACTION PLAN](#):

- Actively recommend influenza vaccine—don't wait for the patient to ask.
- Identify patients due for influenza vaccine.
- Recall patients due for their first or second dose of influenza vaccine.
- Consider drive-thru/drive-up immunization clinics given concerns about COVID-19.
- Review your VFC Flu Progress Reports sent to your practice throughout the past season and build on progress your clinic achieved.
- Review your end-of-season report to guide your goals for this upcoming season.
- Discuss these strategies with your staff now and formulate a plan for implementing your selected strategies.

## **VFC INFLUENZA PROGRAM LETTER AND ACIP RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons over 6 months of age, including two doses for children younger than 8 years of age. 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 CDC.

### **QUESTIONS?**

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

You may also refer to the "VFC 2022-2023 Flu Order Frequently Asked Questions" included with this communication. You can also contact your VFC Field Representative or visit our website, [www.EZIZ.org](http://www.EZIZ.org).

Enclosures:

[VFC 2022-2023 Initial Flu Order Confirmation Quick Guide \(IMM-1290\)](#)

[VFC 2022-2023 Flu Order Frequently Asked Questions \(IMM-1291\)](#)