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GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., Chief 
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: VFC 2023-2024 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 24, 2023**; Brand preference cannot be accommodated in these orders.

PROTECT YOUR PATIENTS AGAINST INFLUENZA AND COVID-19

Initial Flu Vaccine Ordering is now available to begin vaccination efforts for the 2023-2024 Flu Season through the California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

Protect your patients against both influenza disease and COVID-19. As most pharmacies in California cannot vaccinate patients younger than 3 years old, it is critical that you provide access to vaccine for your younger patients. COVID-19 vaccine will shortly become available through the VFC Program.

INITIAL FLU VACCINE ORDERS

Initial orders to VFC providers will be sent in multiple shipments once vaccine arrives at the VFC national vaccine distributor, McKesson.

For providers that pre-booked doses in January 2023:

- The VFC Program has ordered 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.

California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Bldg. P, 2nd Floor, Richmond, CA 94804
(877) 243-8832 ♦ FAX (877) 329-9832 ♦ Internet address: www.eziz.org



For providers that did NOT pre-book doses in January 2023:

- Log into your MyVFCVaccines account to access the 2023-2024 Initial Flu Vaccine Order form and submit your Initial Flu Vaccine order by August 24, 2023.
- 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 this fall during the next phase of the order process.

NEWLY ENROLLED PROVIDERS

Newly enrolled VFC providers may initially order a limited amount of flu vaccine. They may contact the VFC Customer Service Center or VFC Field Representative if they have significantly more VFC-eligible patients since initial enrollment. Practice profiles can be updated on [MyVFCVaccines](#).

ADDITIONAL ORDERS IN THE FALL

Once all initial orders have shipped, the remaining flu vaccine doses that your practice has pre-booked will be available to your practice throughout the 2023-2024 season. The VFC Program will notify providers when they may order additional doses.

SEASON TARGETS

As in previous years, we have set influenza vaccine administration targets based on the number of VFC-eligible patients your practice immunized with routine pediatric vaccines last year, using information from routine orders.

2023-2024 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	58160-0909-52
	Flucelvax®	0.5mL syringe, 10 pack	Seqirus	70461-0323-03
	FluLaval®	0.5mL syringe, 10 pack	GSK	19515-0814-52
	Fluzone®	0.5mL syringe, 10 pack	Sanofi	49281-0423-50
2-18 years	FluMist®	0.2mL intranasal sprayer	AstraZeneca	66019-0310-10

IMPORTANT: You may only order products approved from your pre-book or allocated to your practice. No changes to brand preferences can be accommodated. 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 pre-booked. Ensure that your electronic health systems can accept all flu products offered above.

2023-2024 VFC FLU VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

- Providers will receive initial flu vaccine doses in multiple shipments throughout the season, as vaccine arrives at the national vaccine distributor.
- Influenza vaccine from different manufacturers arrives at different times, therefore most initial flu orders cannot ship in full.
- Prior to each shipment VFC will send communications confirming the vaccine brands, quantity and percentage shipped, based on availability.

IMPORTANT: To prevent vaccine spoilage, immediately notify the VFC Program and update any changes to your clinic hours for receiving shipments.

FLU ACTION PLAN

Strategies to use now 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 doses of influenza vaccine.
- 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.
- Meet with staff to formulate a plan for implementing your selected strategies.

VFC INFLUENZA PROGRAM LETTER AND ACIP RECOMMENDATIONS

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons over 6 months of age, including two doses for many children younger than 8 years of age. The annual VFC Program Influenza letter, including a summary of this season's ACIP recommendations, product dosage and administration, storage and handling guidelines, and other important information, will be released once recommendations are published by the CDC.

ANY QUESTIONS?

- Call the VFC Customer Service Center at 877-243- 8832 (877-2GET-VFC).
- Refer to the attached "VFC 2023-2024 Flu Order Frequently Asked Questions".
- Contact your VFC Field Representative or visit our website, www.EZIZ.org.

Enclosures:

[VFC 2023-2024 Initial Flu Order Confirmation Quick Guide](#)
[VFC 2023-2024 Flu Order Frequently Asked Questions](#)