

Vaccines for Children Program

#### June 27, 2023

# Upcoming Expiration of Flu Vaccine, Public Safety Reminders, and Call Center Closure Updates

## **Transition of Flu Seasons**

As we wrap-up this current flu season and begin to gear up for the 2023-2024 season, the VFC Program closed flu vaccine ordering for the 2022-2023 season on Friday, June 9, 2023. Any remaining flu doses in inventory are still viable until expiration. Please remember these key points:

- Upon expiration, remove expired doses from your vaccine storage unit immediately. Complete and submit a VFC Return Form and request a return shipment label by logging into your <u>MyVFCVaccines</u> account.
- Do not return any expired privately purchased vaccine doses, broken vials or syringes, or open multi-dose vials.
- Each return shipping label requested in the Return Form is associated with that specific Return ID. Therefore, ONLY doses listed in the corresponding Return ID/Form can be included in the return shipment.
- Return shipping labels are only valid for 30 days; ensure expired flu doses are returned to McKesson as soon as possible.

**Coming soon!** For those that pre-booked vaccine for the 2023-2024 season, the VFC Program will be emailing your confirmed pre-book amounts which were determined based on your season target and available vaccine supply for the upcoming season. For providers that did not pre-book, you will be able to confirm your initial orders during the next phase of VFC flu ordering. We will send additional details in July regarding the next phase of the upcoming VFC 2023-2024 flu season.

## Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Events

With summer here, fire season is just around the corner. Be prepared!

- Make sure your <u>Vaccine Management Plan</u>, including the emergency section, is up to date.
- If your site does not have a generator, we recommend having a partner facility to move vaccine to if power is lost. Note: the partner facility may need to be outside of your immediate area.
- Keep transport containers/data loggers on hand and ready to go. Some containers may be qualified to hold appropriate temperature for a long period of time.
- As soon as you hear there will be a power shutoff, start planning and determine if you may need to move the vaccine.
- Contact your local health department or the VFC Customer Service Center if you need assistance.

### **Customer Service Center Closures**

The VFC Customer Service Center will be closed on the following days/times:

- Wednesday, June 28, 2023 (Staff Development)
- Tuesday, July 4, 2023 (Independence Day Holiday)

Orders will continue to be received throughout these closures. Normal business hours will resume on the business days/times following each event listed above. Please ensure that your practice has an adequate supply of VFC vaccines in stock to prevent running out of inventory during these closures.

# 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 EZIZ.org