

Vaccines for Children Program

VFC Update

August 17, 2023

End-of-Season VFC Flu Vaccine Ordering Report is Coming Soon!

Dear VFC Provider,

In the coming days, we will be sending you your practice's End-of-Season VFC Flu Vaccine Ordering Report. We encourage you to share it with your colleagues, including medical assistants, clinicians, and quality improvement (QI) staff. Your End-of-Season Flu Vaccine Ordering Report will show how well you met your VFC Flu Vaccine Target for the 2022-2023 season, a calculation based on your ordering history of other routinely recommended childhood vaccines. This report will indicate the percentage of your target met and subsequent rating (Excellent, Very Good, Good, Needs Improvement). VFC providers who achieved an "Excellent" rating this season, as well as those who had at least a 30% improvement from the previous flu season, will receive certificates of achievement from the California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch. For your convenience, you can also view your reports in your <u>MyVFCVaccines</u> account. If you met your 2022-23 VFC flu vaccine target this year, congratulations! If not, now is the time to start planning for the next flu season. In either case, it would also be important to keep in mind that COVID-19 vaccination rates in California continue to be low for children—less than 10% of those younger than age 5 have completed their primary series. This provides many opportunities to make sure your plans include components to co-administer flu and COVID-19.

As you plan for the 2023-2024 Flu Season, what can you do?

- 1) **Review your rating data with your clinic team.** Note that starting in the Fall 2023, your VFC Flu Reports will not only measure flu vaccine ordering data, they will add *flu vaccine administration data from CAIR*.
- 2) Start planning now! Use VFC's Flu Action Plan 3 Habits of Highly Successful VFC Clinics to help your clinical team prepare for flu season this summer. The Flu Action Plan includes many easy best practice strategies that your clinic can readily implement to get ready for flu season—particularly for supporting VFC flu doses administered. Gather your staff, choose at least two strategies, and get started! Ensure everyone in your team is recommending influenza vaccine in the same way they recommend other routine immunizations.
- 3) New for Fall! As you may know, California state law (<u>AB 1797</u>) now requires all providers to report vaccinations to the immunization registry the same day of administration but no later than 14 days. Your Fall VFC Flu Report will include flu administration data from CAIR. While we won't be changing the way we assess your flu season target (based on ordering data history of pediatric vaccines) in 2023-2024, future flu targets are anticipated to be based on flu doses reported to CAIR. Next season will be an opportunity to compare your flu ordering and administration data. To get a head start, you may wish to run a report in CAIR to

compare how similar your 2022-2023 End-of-Season Flu Report's flu doses ordered match VFC flu doses reported to CAIR.

The VFC Program will partner with you throughout flu season

VFC will work with your practice to ensure that you have an adequate supply of VFC flu vaccine for your VFC patient population. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the VFC Program at 877-243-8832.

In recognition of all you are doing, thank you so much for protecting California children. Our VFC team supports you in protecting California's kids against influenza!

Thank you,



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