The Twindemic: Planning for Flu Season During COVID-19

California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
Webinar Tech Tips!

1. Listen to today’s webinar through the computer audio

2. If you cannot connect through the computer audio, have WebEx call you
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Write down your questions in the Chat box as we move through the presentation.
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Cecilia.LaVu@cdph.ca.gov
Today’s speakers

CDPH Speakers:
Lily Horng, MD, MPH
Jennifer Toten
Rebeca Boyte
Christina Sapad

Host:
Steven Vantine
Webinar objectives

• Describe why influenza vaccination is especially important this season
• Share patient prioritization and guidelines regarding seasonal influenza vaccination
• Discuss modified clinic operations and other tips for adapting immunization services during the pandemic
• Share developed messaging to motivate patients to get flu vaccine
• Describe VFC’s influenza vaccine ordering efforts
Why Influenza Vaccination is Especially Important this Season

Lily Horng, MD, MPH
Flu vaccines are critical this season

• Combination of COVID-19 pandemic and seasonal flu epidemic will stress health system.

• Flu and COVID-19 symptoms are similar.
  • Delays in diagnosis can lead to delays in treatment.

• Patients can be infected with both flu and COVID-19.
  • Adults at high risk for severe flu illness are also high risk for severe COVID-19.

• Flu vaccination can help path for future COVID-19 vaccination.
COVID-19 pandemic continues in 2020

- As of September 13, 2020
- Globally 28,637,952 COVID-19 cases and 917,417 deaths [https://covid19.who.int/]
- USA 6,467,481 cases and 193,195 deaths [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/]
- California [https://update.covid19.ca.gov/#top]
Influenza Season: 2019-2020 Burden

CDC estimates* that, from October 1, 2019, through April 4, 2020, there have been:

- 39,000,000 – 56,000,000 flu illnesses
- 18,000,000 – 26,000,000 flu medical visits
- 410,000 – 740,000 flu hospitalizations
- 24,000 – 62,000 flu deaths

*Estimates are through the week ending April 4, 2020.

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/preliminary-in-season-estimates.htm
Influenza timing and burden vary year to year

May reflect seeking care for COVID-19

Influenza subtypes also vary year to year.

Figure 9. Number of Influenza Detections by Type and Subtype Detected in the Respiratory Laboratory Network, 2019–2020

Influenza virus vs. SARS-CoV-2 virus

- Orthomyxovirus family
- 3 influenza types infect humans
  - A and B cause epidemics
    - A subtypes are based on H and N surface proteins
  - C causes mild illness

- Coronavirus family
- 7 coronaviruses infect humans
  - MERS, SARS-CoV, and SARS-CoV-2 are new to humans from animals
  - 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1 cause common cold
Flu and COVID-19 transmission is similar

• Both are spread by respiratory droplets
  • SARS-CoV-2 virus also spread by near aerosols
  • Contact with objects is less common way of spreading

• Incubation
  • Flu: usually 1-4 days
  • COVID-19: average 5 days (2-14 days)

• Contagiousness
  • Flu: 1 day before symptoms until 7 days after
  • COVID-19: 2 days before symptoms* until 10 days after
Flu and COVID-19 symptoms are similar.
COVID-19: many have mild or no symptoms

Up to 40% of people infected with COVID-19 have no symptoms.
Who’s at high risk for severe illness?

• High risk for **both** severe flu and severe COVID-19 occurs in:
  • Older adults
  • Underlying medical conditions including diabetes
  • Pregnant women

• Children are higher risk of severe flu than severe COVID-19, but
  • Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) is a rare but severe complication of COVID-19.

• Flu and COVID-19 co-infection is possible - **testing is important.**
Flu vaccination saves lives.

- 2018-2019: Estimated flu vaccine effectiveness was overall 29%.
- Flu vaccination prevented 58,000 hospitalizations and 3,500 deaths.

2020-2021
ACIP Influenza Vaccination
Recommendations and CDC Clinical Guidance
Who should get a flu vaccine?

2020–21 ACIP Influenza Statement

Core recommendation (unchanged):

- Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 6 months and older who do not have contraindications.
High priority patients and caregivers

- Children 6 – 59 months
- Children & adolescents 6 mo. – 18 yr. taking aspirin or salicylates
- Adults ≥ 50 years
- Pregnant women
- All ages with chronic medical conditions
  - Immunocompromised
  - Respiratory: asthma, COPD
  - Metabolic: diabetes, obesity
  - Cardiovascular, renal, hepatic, neurologic, hematologic
- Nursing home residents
- American Indians/Alaska Natives
What is the best flu vaccine?

• **Any** licensed, age-appropriate flu vaccine

• Egg-based influenza vaccines
  • Inactivated = IIV
  • *Live* attenuated = LAIV

• *Non*-egg-based (egg-free) influenza vaccines
  • Cell-culture inactivated = ccIIV
  • Recombinant = RIV
2020-21 Influenza vaccine composition

• **Egg-based**: inactivated (IIV) and live attenuated vaccines (LAIV)
  • A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
  • A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus
  • B/Washington/02/2019 (Victoria lineage)-like virus
  • B/Phuket/3073/2013 (Yamagata lineage)-like virus

• **Non-egg-based**: cell-culture (cIIV) and recombinant vaccines (RIV)
  • A/Hawaii/70/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
  • A/Hong Kong/45/2019 (H3N2)-like virus
  • B/Washington/02/2019 (Victoria lineage)-like virus
  • B/Phuket/3073/2013 (Yamagata lineage)-like virus
## Vaccines available by age groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine type</th>
<th>6 through 23 mos</th>
<th>2 through 3 yrs</th>
<th>4 through 17 yrs</th>
<th>18 through 49 yrs</th>
<th>50 through 64 yrs</th>
<th>≥65 yrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IIV4s (egg)</td>
<td>Afluria Quadrivalent</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fluarix Quadrivalent</td>
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<td>FluLaval Quadrivalent</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fluzone Quadrivalent</td>
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<td>cIIIV4 (cell)</td>
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<td>RIV4 (recombinant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjuvanted aIIV3 (egg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjuvanted aIIV4 (egg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>High-dose HD-IIV4 (egg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAIV4 (egg)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Multi-dose vials of influenza vaccine exceed legal limit of mercury and should **not** be used in pregnant women or children <3 yr.**
CONTRAINDICATIONS to flu vaccines

• Severe, life-threatening allergies to flu vaccine or any ingredient.

• Live attenuated vaccine LAIV is contraindicated for:
  • Children 2-4 years with asthma
  • Children & adolescents taking aspirin or salicylates
  • Immunocompromised patients
  • Close contacts and caregivers of immunocompromised patients
  • Pregnant women
  • Cerebrospinal fluid leaks and cochlear implants
  • Recent receipt of influenza antivirals
Vaccination of persons with egg allergy

- People with severe egg allergies can receive egg-free vaccines:
  - Cell-culture-based inactivated vaccine (ccIIV4)
  - Recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV4)

- If an egg-based vaccine is used, give in a medical setting with supervision by a health care provider able to recognize and manage severe allergic reactions.
Precautions for flu vaccines

• History of Guillain-Barré syndrome within 6 weeks of previous dose of influenza vaccine

• Temporary deferral
  • Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
  • Suspected or confirmed COVID-19 regardless of symptoms until patient has met criteria to discontinue isolation

*Patients should be reminded to return for flu vaccination once recovered
When to vaccinate? It’s time!

• Children 6 months - 8 years old
  • If child never received vaccine before, then 2 doses ≥4 weeks apart
  • First dose as soon as possible to complete series by end of October

• Older adults
  • Not too early: after July/August

• Keep vaccinating everyone *all of flu season* until the last dose expires
Where is the best place to vaccinate?

- Your clinic with appropriate safety precautions

- Strategies to use pre-visit
  - Schedule appointments: flu and catch-up vaccines
  - ‘Clean Clinics’
    - Schedule sick patients and well patients at different times and/or in different areas.

- Ask patients to wait outside or in vehicle until called

- Limit points of entry
  - Screen for COVID-19 symptoms
Strategies for safe vaccination during visit

- Ensure physical distancing ≥ 6 feet
  - Barriers, clear plastic guards, signs, ropes, and floor markings

- Encourage face coverings for patients ≥ 2 years when tolerated

- Use appropriate PPE
Satellite, temporary, or off-site locations

- Mobile sites
- Curbside
- Walk-through or drive-through

Flowchart for Vaccination Clinic Layout for Walk-through Clinics

1. Eligibility screening area (multiple stations)
2. CLINIC ENTRANCE
3. Waiting area
4. Registration/Q&A/form completion area (multiple stations)
5. Medical screening/treatment area (as needed)
6. Payment area (multiple stations, i.e., Medicare, private insurance)
7. Vaccination area (multiple stations)
8. Post vaccination waiting area
9. CLINIC EXIT

*These activities can also be combined with activities, for example, they might be part of activity 1 or 3
Resources

- https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm
- https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/whoshouldvax.htm
- https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/mass-clinic-activities/index.html
- **COCA webinar:** https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_082020.asp
Manage Patient Status & Reminder Recall

Jennifer Toten
How can Manage Patient Status help you?

The Manage Patient Status feature in CAIR2 allows you to generate a group of patients who have received immunization-related services from your site.

- Enables your site to review and inactivate patients no longer being seen by the practice.
- Multiple patients can be inactivated at one time.
- Utilize the Manage Patient Status as a precursor to using Reminder Recall so that only active patients will be listed in your Reminder Recall information.
- Inactivation of patients who are no longer active in your practice removes them from your CAIR2 reports, making these reports more accurate (and therefore more useful).
Recommendations for inactivating patients

• Your site should establish internal policies for determining when to inactivate a patient from your site in CAIR2 and when to leave a patient as Active.

• Also, your site may want to consider having different criteria for different age groups. For example, adolescents and adults may not be due for shots for longer periods of time (e.g., annually) as opposed to young children who may be due every few months.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We encourage you to review each patient in the list that is generated before inactivating the entire group, in case some patients should still be considered active even though they may have not been into your practice for a vaccination recently.
Patient status categories

• Active
• Inactive-No longer a patient
• Inactive-Lost to follow up
• Inactive-Unspecified
• Deceased (can only be selected within an individual patient record)
Accessing the Manage Patient Feature

• Log into CAIR2 at [https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/](https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/)
• Click the ‘manage patient status’ link on the left blue menu, the Manage Patient Status Criteria page will appear:
Options for filtering reports

- **Select By Status** (required): Generating a group based on patients’ current Active/Inactive status in CAIR2.

- **Select By Age** (required): Generating a group based on age (or Birth Date range) of patients.

- **Select By Length of Time Since Last Immunization**: Generating a group by the last time your site gave an immunization to the patients.

- **Select By Last Name**: Generating a group based on patients’ Last Name.
Changing the status of one or multiple patients

Once you have generated your group based on the criteria you selected, you can then change the status of any or all of the patients that display.

- For more detailed instructions please refer to training guide/video page - http://cairweb.org/cair2-training-resources/
Reminder recall

• Reminder Recall can be run to target specific age groups needing immunizations.
• Specific vaccine groups can be selected.
• Options for indicating:
  • Vaccines Due Now
  vs.
  • Vaccines Past Due
  or
  • Both
Reminder recall continued...

There are many options in Reminder Recall:

- Reminder Letters
- Reminder Card
- Mailing Labels
- 4 Up postcards
- Patient Query Listing
Accessing the reminder recall feature

• Log into CAIR2 at https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/
• Click the ‘reminder/recall’ link on the left blue menu, the Reminder/Recall Request page will appear:

• For more detailed instructions please refer to training guide/video page http://cairweb.org/cair2-training-resources/
Resources for MPS and reminder recall

• CAIR2: https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/

• MPS and R/R guides: http://cairweb.org/cair2-training-resources/

• Please note the new R/R guide will be posted online when the new R/R feature is launched later this month.

• AIRA: https://www.immregistries.org/
How Do We Get Patients to Come in for Flu Vaccine?

Rebeca Boyte
Use your flu vaccination action plan

- Get all of your staff on aboard.
  - Everyone needs current vaccine information and should be able to answer their own questions.

- Develop a plan with your team.
  - How will you reach VFC Flu Vaccine Target Goal (see myVFCvaccines account)?

- Consider your resources to recall patients:
  - Patient portals, emails, robo calls, postcards

- Use every opportunity to immunize.

https://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1274.pdf
Reassure patients that it’s safe

• Exposure to COVID-19 is still a big concern
• Inform parents prior to the visit of safety protocols (e.g., disinfect all rooms after every visit, masks required for ages 2+, only 1 parent/visit, drive up immunizations, etc.)
Encourage flu vaccine at every interaction

CHECK IN
Remind patients that flu vaccine is due

WAITING ROOM
Parents read flu VIS & other patient materials

EXAM ROOM
Make strong offer for flu vaccine; address parents’ concerns

CHECK OUT
Schedule 2nd dose appointment and/or next wellness check

AFTER EVERY VISIT
Send plenty of reminders!
Key messages

• “Just like wearing a mask, getting a flu shot is an easy and safe way to keep our families healthy during the pandemic.”

• “COVID-19 and flu will likely be circulating this fall and winter. Getting immunized against flu means there is one less thing for us to worry about this season.”

• “Flu and COVID-19 share many symptoms. If you get a fever or cough, you will have to get tested. Preventing flu lowers your family’s chances of having to seek medical care or get tested.”

• “I got my flu shot, and as your doctor I also want your family to be protected.”
Resources

https://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1275.pdf

https://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-782.pdf

https://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-823.pdf

OTHER RESOURCES:
https://eziz.org/resources/flu-promo-materials/
https://www.immunizeca.org/dontwaitvaccinate/
Flu Vaccine Through the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)

Christina Sapad
About the California VFC Program

- The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a federally funded entitlement program that provides public-purchased vaccine for eligible children at no charge to VFC-enrolled public and private providers.

- Covers vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
Phases of VFC vaccine ordering

**Phase 1** - Providers were asked to pre-book doses at the beginning of the influenza season

**Phase 2** – Initial Flu Orders. VFC automatically ships 50% of pre-booked doses (as supply becomes available)

**Phase 3** – Providers draw down the remaining 50% of doses as needed throughout the season
2020-2021 VFC vaccine supply

- VFC has adequate supply of influenza vaccine doses to support provider influenza vaccination efforts.
- Providers can order more doses after practice has administered all pre-book doses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>NDC Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 months - 18 years</td>
<td>Fluarix®</td>
<td>0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack</td>
<td>GSK</td>
<td>58160-0885-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FluLaval®</td>
<td>0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack</td>
<td>GSK</td>
<td>19515-0816-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fluzone®</td>
<td>0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack</td>
<td>Sanofi</td>
<td>49281-0420-50</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-35 months</td>
<td>Afluria®</td>
<td>0.25mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack</td>
<td>Seqirus</td>
<td>33332-0220-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-18 years</td>
<td>Flumist®</td>
<td>0.2mL single-dose intranasal sprayer</td>
<td>AstraZeneca</td>
<td>66019-0307-10</td>
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<td>3-18 years</td>
<td>Fluzone®</td>
<td>5mL multi-dose vial</td>
<td>Sanofi</td>
<td>49281-0633-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-18 years</td>
<td>Flucelvax®</td>
<td>0.5mL single-dose syringe, 10 pack</td>
<td>Seqirus</td>
<td>70461-0320-03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Preservative-free vaccines should be prioritized for administration to pregnant teens under 18 years of age; but may also be used in children 3-18 years of age. According to the Health and Safety Code Section 124172, pregnant women or children younger than three years old may only receive vaccine doses that contain trace levels or no mercury. Flucelvax may not be used in patients younger than 4 years of age.
2020-2021 VFC FLU VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

• Influenza vaccine supplies from different manufacturers arrive at VFC’s national vaccine distributor at different times and in multiple shipments throughout the season.

• Therefore, flu vaccine cannot be shipped to providers all at once.

• All confirmed initial flu orders remain in queue until flu vaccine supplies are received at VFC’s national vaccine distributor.
VFC vaccine shipments

• Prior to vaccine shipments, VFC issues notifications to alert providers on processing of those shipments

• Be on the lookout for alerts of incoming shipments and be prepared to receive them

• IMPORTANT: Orders cannot be cancelled once submitted for fulfillment
  • Temporary clinic closures AND change in clinic hours MUST be reported immediately

VFC Update

2020-2021 VFC Influenza Vaccine Supply and Shipping Update

Dear VFC Provider,

2020-2021 Influenza Vaccine Will Begin Shipping Soon for Available Products

The VFC Program has begun to receive initial influenza vaccine supply for this season at our national vaccine distributor, McKesson! While not all VFC flu products have arrived, processing of vaccine orders for received products will begin this week. Providers whose initial order contains products available for shipping, as listed below, can expect to receive a separate communication outlining the amount of doses that will be delivered the week of August 31, 2020. We will begin shipping additional flu products as soon as they arrive at McKesson. Please check your initial order confirmation email to determine when you can expect to receive vaccine products.

• AVAILABLE FOR SHIPPING (shipping the week of August 31, 2020):
  o FluAise® 0.5mL, Single-Dose Syringes (GSK)
  o FluAise® 0.5mL, Single-Dose Intranasal Sprays (AstraZeneca)

• NOT YET AVAILABLE (estimated distribution to begin mid-September):
  o FluAise® 0.5mL, Single-Dose Syringes (Sandif)
  o FluAise® 0.5mL, Single-Dose Syringes (Seqirus)

ACTION REQUIRED

Log into your MyVFCVaccines account to verify that your clinic’s hours of operation are updated. This ensures timely delivery of your vaccine shipments and prevents unstable shipment attempts which may lead to vaccine spoilage.

If your clinic will be closed due to COVID-19 or has limited hours, immediately notify the VFC Program and update your clinic hours to reflect any changes. If you expect to be closed for an indefinite amount of time, please review and complete the Temporary Clinic Closure form with your Provider of Record to inform us of this change.

Thank you,
California Department of Public Health | Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
588 Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond, CA 94804
Phone: 877-228-VFC (877-228-9823)
Fax: 877-FAX- VFC (877-228-9822)
Email: MyVFCVaccines@ophs.ca.gov
Managing vaccine shipments during COVID-19

• Limited lobby access due to COVID-19?
  • Have signs that provide clear access and delivery instructions

• UPS has temporarily adjusted their signature guidelines for all shipments. Signatures may not be required.
  • Vaccine orders may be left unattended
  • Practice extra vigilance when expecting a delivery
  • Routinely check drop-off locations throughout the day & prior to leaving the office

• Allow ample time for vaccine orders, and ensure there is sufficient inventory on hand to cover if there is a delay
Recognition for providers who have reached excellence

- The VFC Flu Progress Reports shows a clinic’s progress in reaching their season target
- **Season Target** - is based on the number of VFC-eligible patients your practice immunized with routine pediatric vaccines during the past year, determined using usage information provided on routine orders
- Providers reaching “excellence” are now highlighted on EZIZ
Keep in mind...

**VFC PATIENTS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE VACCINES**

- The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is an entitlement program, meaning your VFC-eligible patients are entitled to receive all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), including influenza vaccine.

**DO NOT REFER YOUR PATIENTS OUT FOR FLU VACCINE**

- Outside facilities, such as pharmacies, may not be VFC-enrolled providers and your VFC-eligible patients may pay for a flu vaccine that they could have received at your practice at no cost.

**USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO IMMUNIZE PATIENTS**

- Catch up with other vaccines
Questions and Answers
Thank You for Protecting Californians!
Resources

Influenza Guidelines & Patient Prioritization

• https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm
• https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/whoshouldvax.htm
• https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html
• https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/mass-clinic-activities/index.html
• COCA webinar: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_082020.asp
Resources

Manage Patient Status & Reminder Recall
• https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/
• http://cairweb.org/cair2-training-resources/
• AIRA: https://www.immregistries.org/

Messaging
• Flu Action Plan: https://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1274.pdf
• https://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1275.pdf
• https://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-823.pdf
• https://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-782.pdf
• https://eziz.org/resources/flu-promo-materials/