



VFA  
California Vaccines  
for Adults

VFC  
California Vaccines  
For Children

CDPH  
Immunization  
Branch

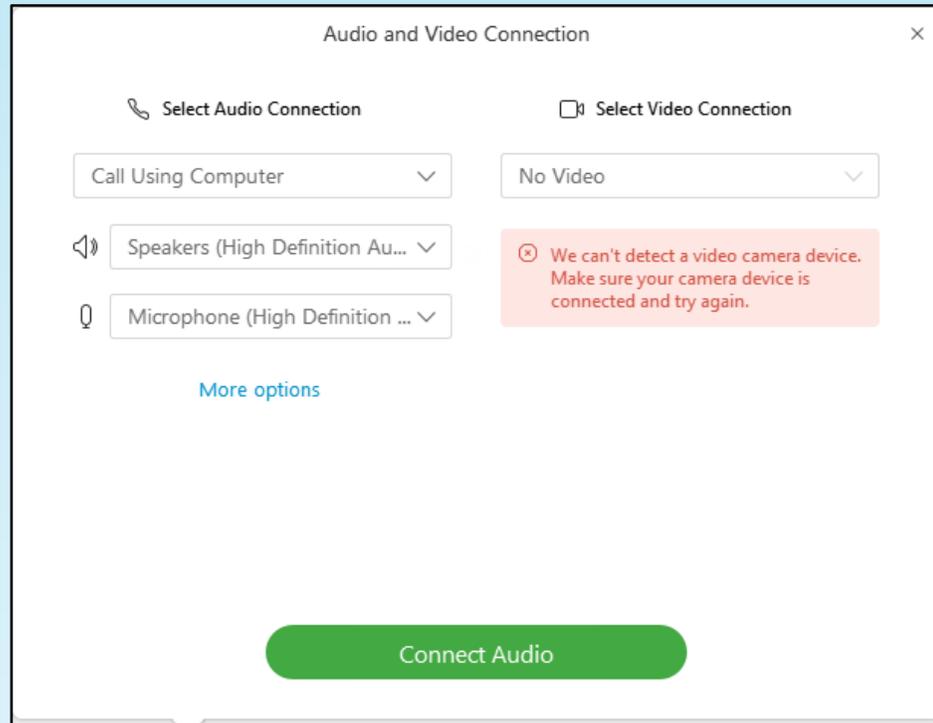
# The Twindemic: Planning for Flu Season During COVID-19

California Department of Public Health  
Immunization Branch



# Webinar Tech Tips!

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



Audio and Video Connection

Select Audio Connection       Select Video Connection

Call Using Computer      No Video

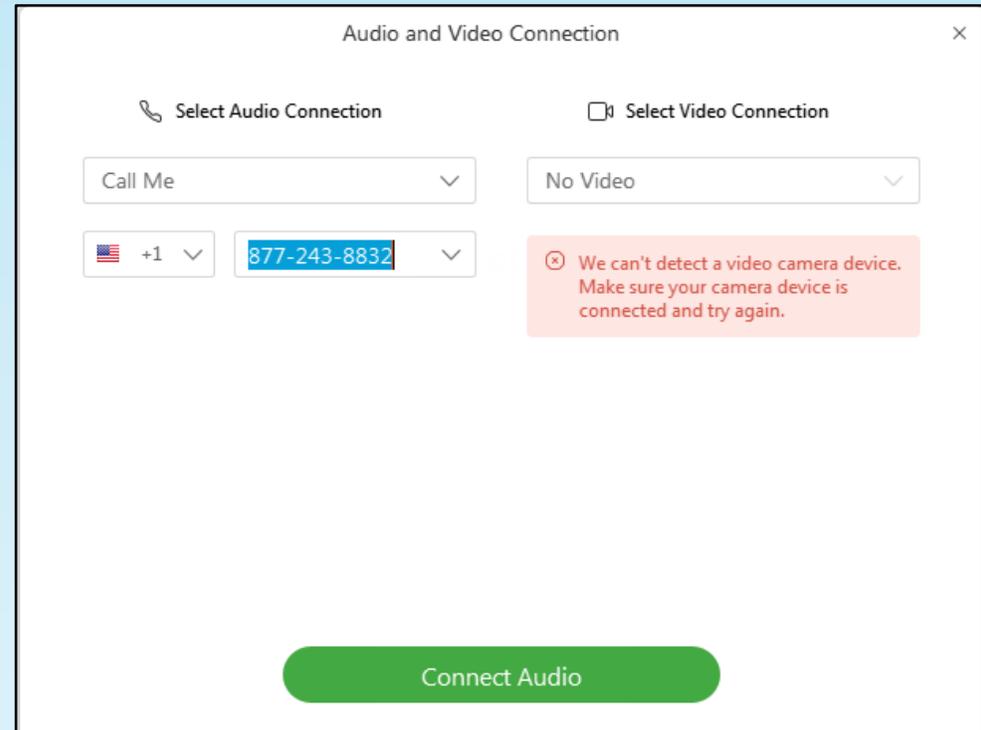
Speakers (High Definition Au...       We can't detect a video camera device. Make sure your camera device is connected and try again.

Microphone (High Definition ...

[More options](#)

Connect Audio

2. If you cannot connect through the computer audio, have WebEx call you



Audio and Video Connection

Select Audio Connection       Select Video Connection

Call Me      No Video

+1      877-243-8832       We can't detect a video camera device. Make sure your camera device is connected and try again.

Connect Audio



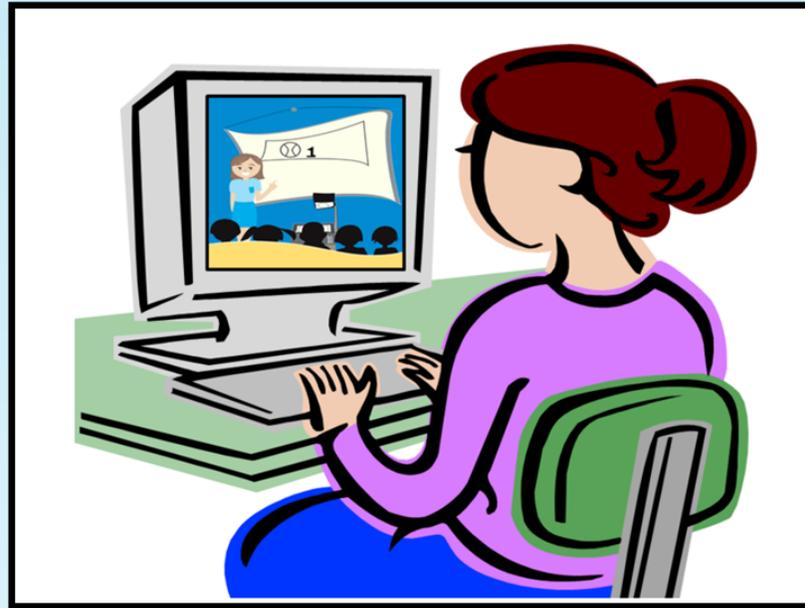
# Getting your question(s) and answer(s) submitted

Write down your questions in the Chat box as we move through the presentation



In case you have technical difficulties during the webinar use the email address below for assistance.

[Cecilia.LaVu@cdph.ca.gov](mailto: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.



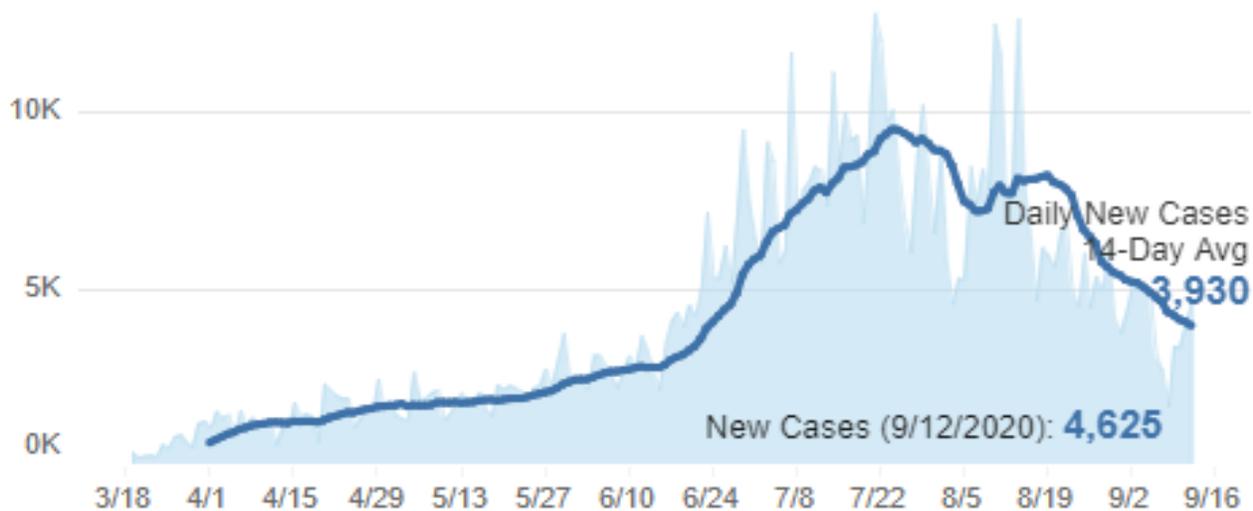
# COVID-19 pandemic continues in 2020

- 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>

**754,923**

Positive Cases

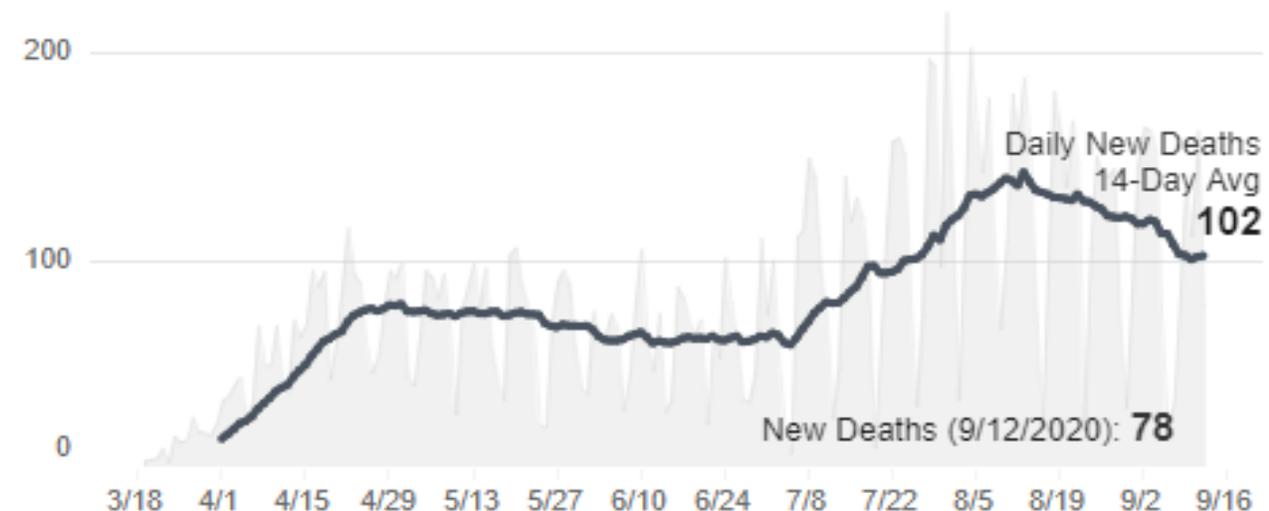
+4,625 New Cases  
+0.6% Increase



**14,329**

Total Deaths

+78 New Deaths  
+0.5% Increase



# 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**



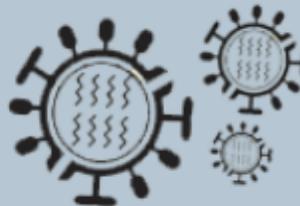
18,000,000 – 26,000,000  
flu **medical visits**



410,000 – 740,000  
flu **hospitalizations**



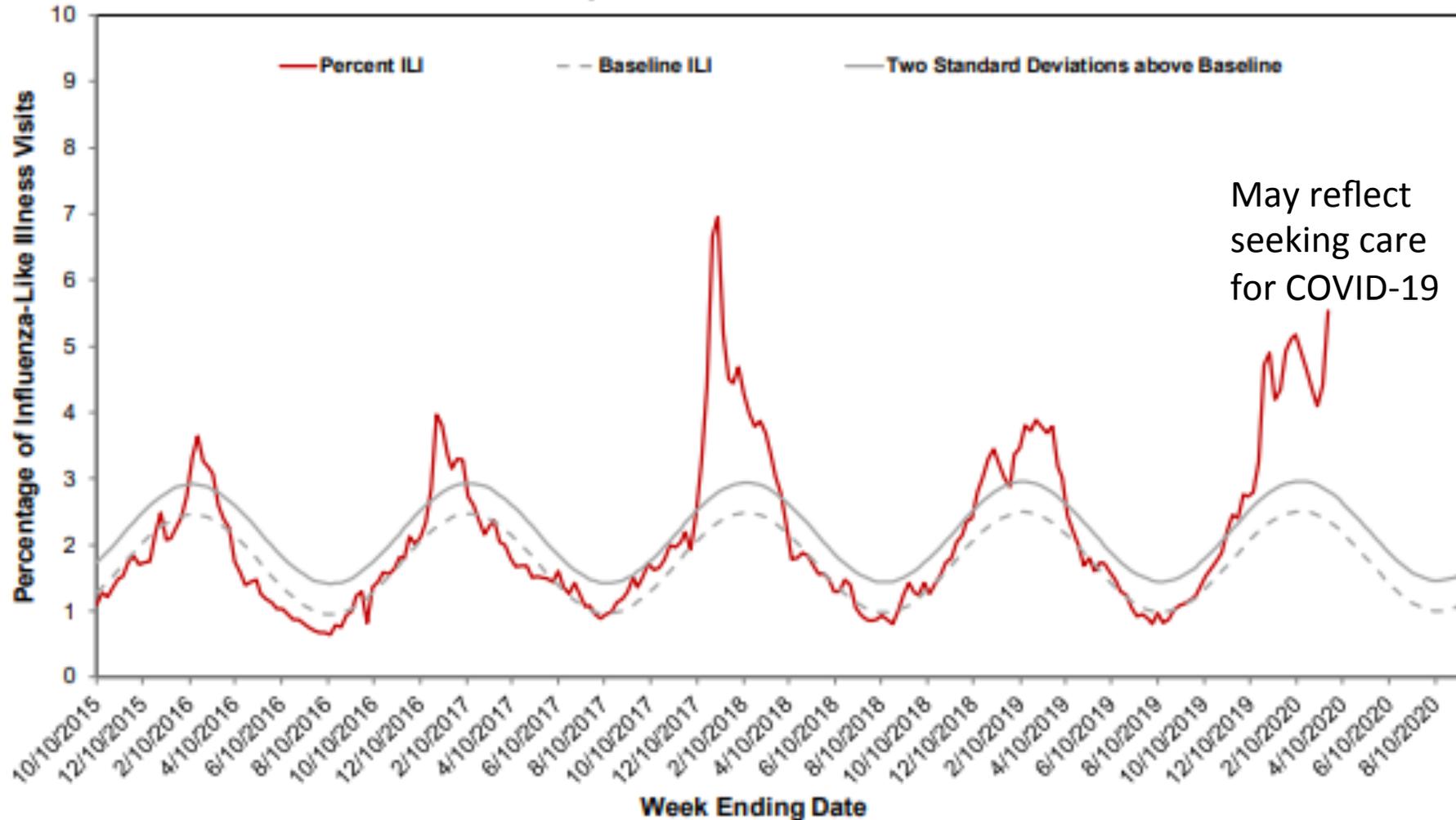
24,000 – 62,000  
flu **deaths**



<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/preliminary-in-season-estimates.htm>

# Influenza timing and burden vary year to year

**Figure 1. Percentage of Influenza-like Illness Visits Among Patients Seen by California Sentinel Providers, 2015–2020**

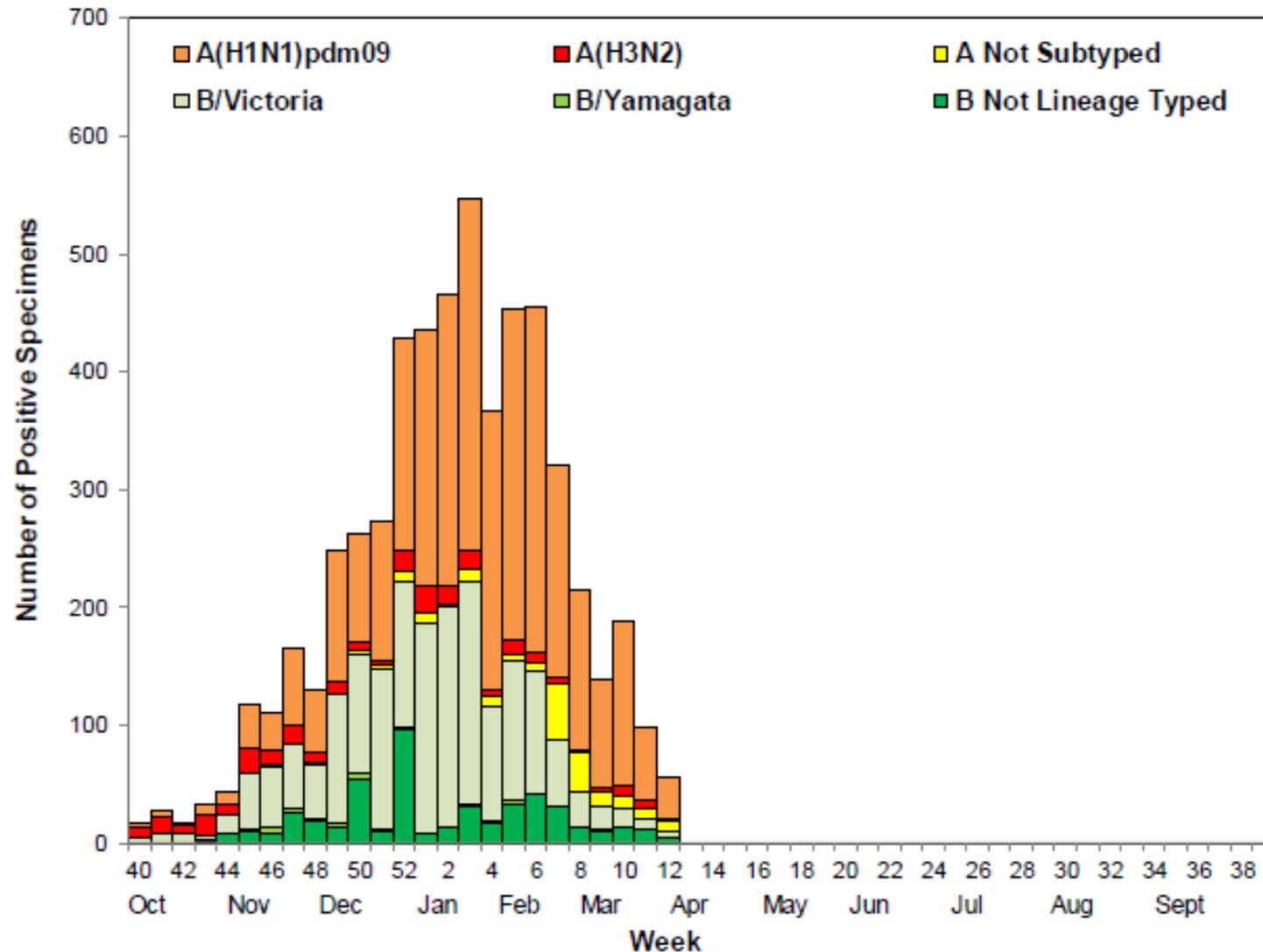


May reflect  
seeking care  
for COVID-19

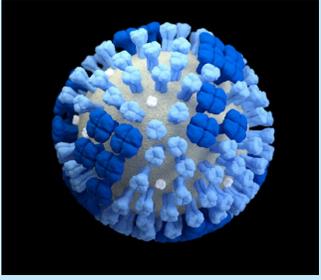
[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/Week2019-2020\\_FINALReport.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/Week2019-2020_FINALReport.pdf)

# Influenza subtypes also vary year to year

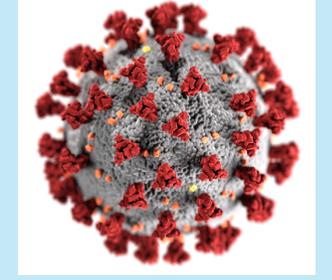
Figure 9. Number of Influenza Detections by Type and Subtype Detected in the Respiratory Laboratory Network, 2019–2020



[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/Week2019-2012\\_FINALReport.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/Week2019-2012_FINALReport.pdf)



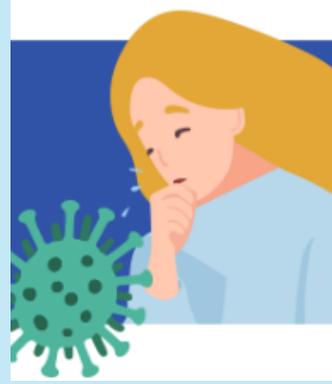
# Influenza virus vs. SARS-CoV-2 virus



- 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

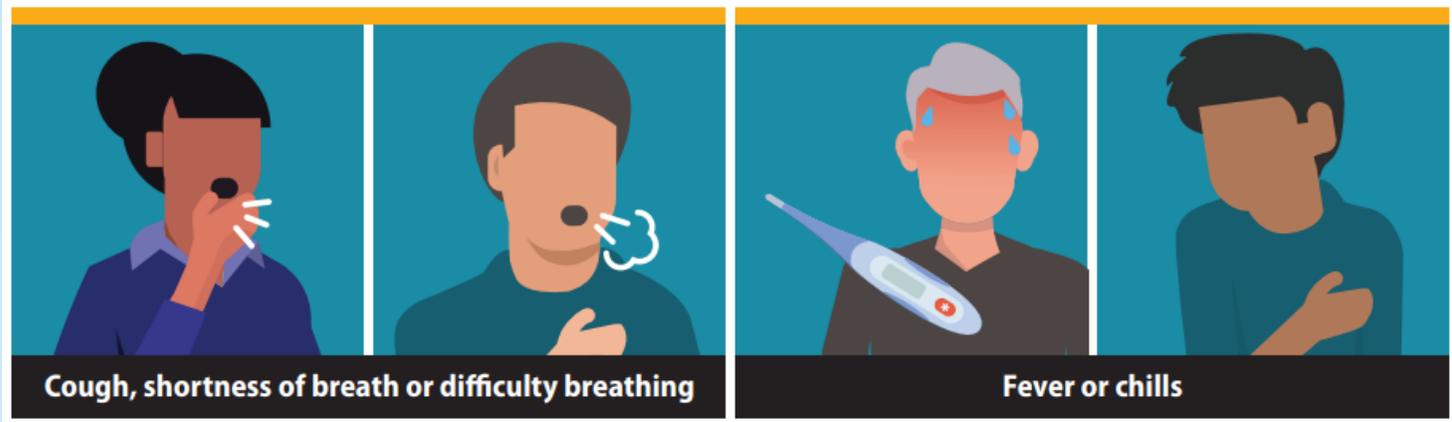


# Flu and COVID-19 transmission is similar



- 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

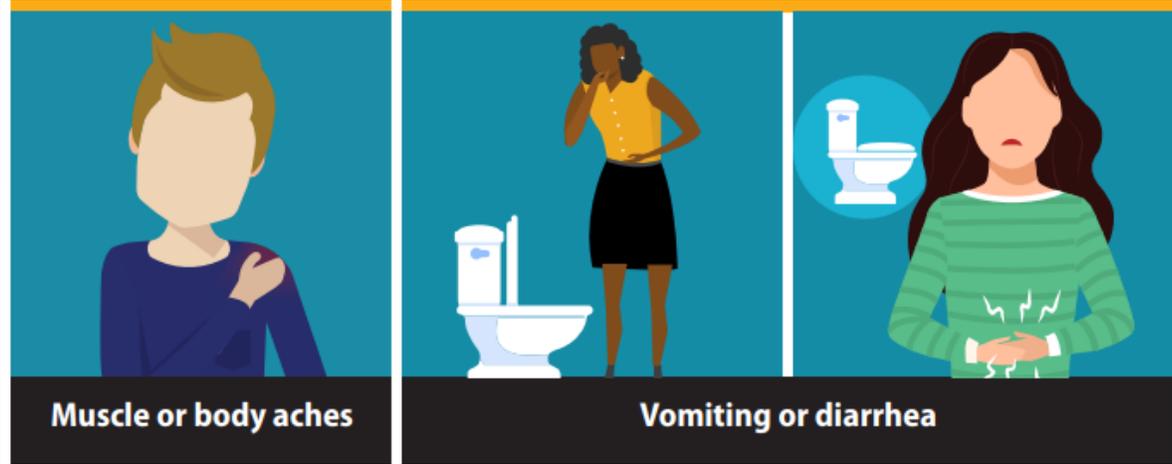




Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fever or chills

Flu and COVID-19 symptoms are *similar*.



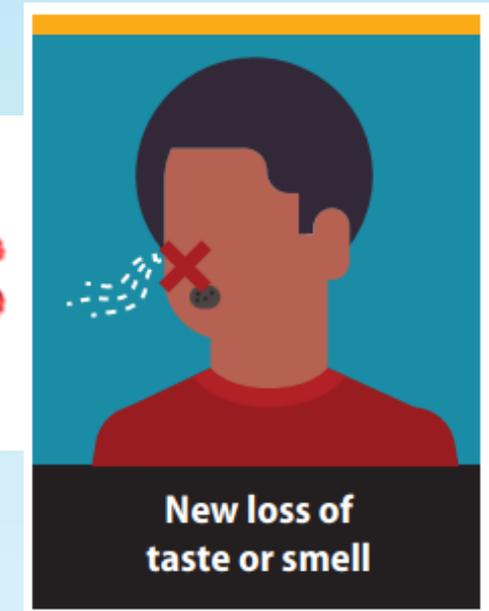
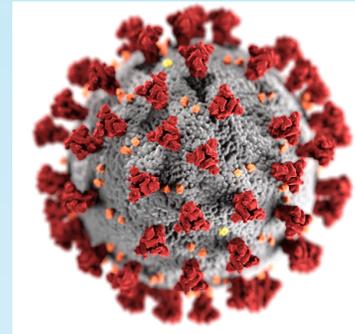
Muscle or body aches

Vomiting or diarrhea



# 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.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/graphics/benefits-of-flu-vaccination2019.pdf>



get vaccinated  
[www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

## the benefits of flu vaccination **2018-2019**

Approximately **49%** of the U.S. population chose to get a flu vaccine during the 2018-2019 flu season, and this prevented an estimated:

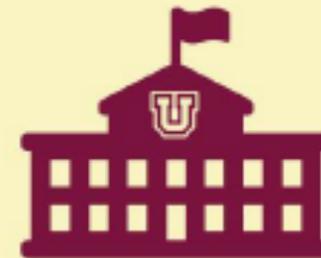
**4.4**  
million  
flu illnesses

More than the  
population of Los  
Angeles



**58,000**  
flu hospitalizations

About the number of  
students at Ohio State  
University



**3,500**  
flu deaths

Equivalent to saving  
about 10 lives per day  
over the course of a year



# 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  $\geq$  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 = cIIV
  - 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

Vaccine type	6 through 23 mos	2 through 3 yrs	4 through 17 yrs	18 through 49 yrs	50 through 64 yrs	≥65 yrs
IIV4s (egg)	Afluria Quadrivalent Fluarix Quadrivalent FluLaval Quadrivalent Fluzone Quadrivalent					
ccIIV4 (cell)			Flucelvax Quadrivalent			
RIV4 (recombinant)				Flublok Quadrivalent		
Adjuvanted aIIV3 (egg)						Fluad
Adjuvanted aIIV4 (egg)						Fluad Quadrivalent <b>NEW</b>
High-dose HD-IIV4 (egg)						Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent <b>NEW</b>
LAIV4 (egg)		FluMist Quadrivalent				

**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  $\geq 4$  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



**IT'S TIME!**  
Don't Wait—Vaccinate



**IT'S TIME!**  
Call Your Doctor.



**¡ES HORA!**  
No espere, ¡vacúnese!



**IT'S TIME!**  
Call Your Doctor.

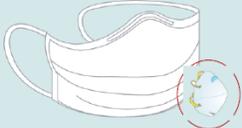
# Where is the best place to vaccinate?

- *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

## Use Personal Protection Equipment

Face mask	Eye protection	Gloves
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Recommended:</b> All health care providers (N95 masks not recommended)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Recommended:</b> Areas of moderate/substantial community transmission</li><li>• <b>Optional:</b> Areas of minimal/no community transmission</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Recommended:</b> intranasal or oral vaccines</li><li>• <b>Optional:</b> intramuscular or subcutaneous vaccines</li></ul>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>; Image credit: Pan American Health Organization

3

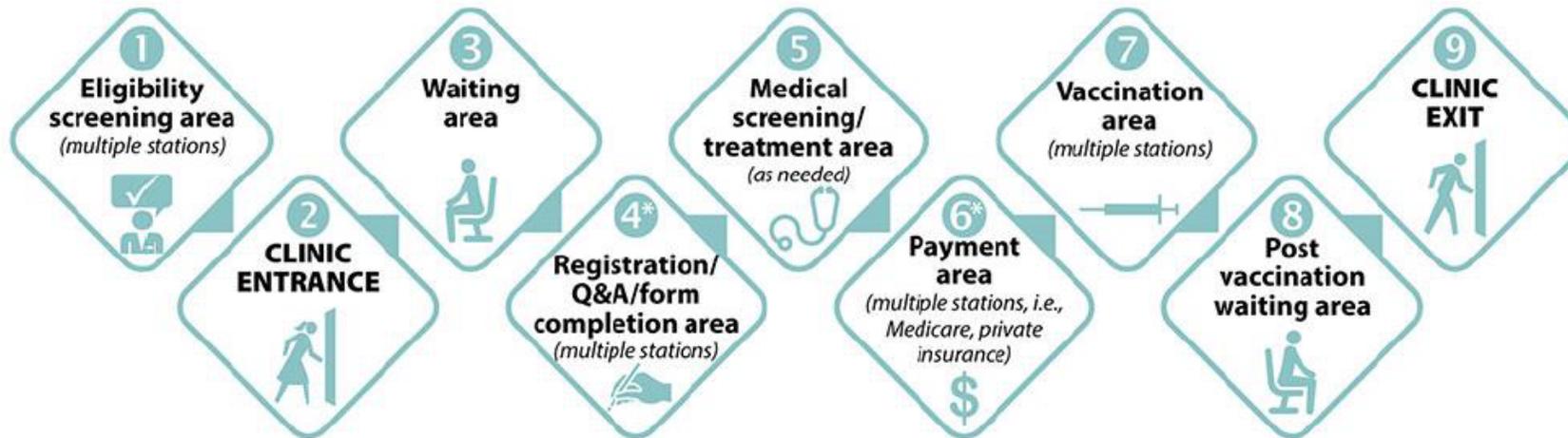
- Ensure physical distancing  $\geq 6$  feet
  - Barriers, clear plastic guards, signs, ropes, and floor markings
- Encourage face coverings for patients  $\geq 2$  years when tolerated
- Use appropriate PPE



# Satellite, temporary, or off-site locations

## Flowchart for Vaccination Clinic Layout for Walk-through Clinics

### Indoor or outdoor walk-through clinics



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

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



# Resources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/whoshouldvax.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>
- <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](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_082020.asp)





# Manage Patient Status & Reminder Recall

Jennifer Toten



# Manage patient status

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.



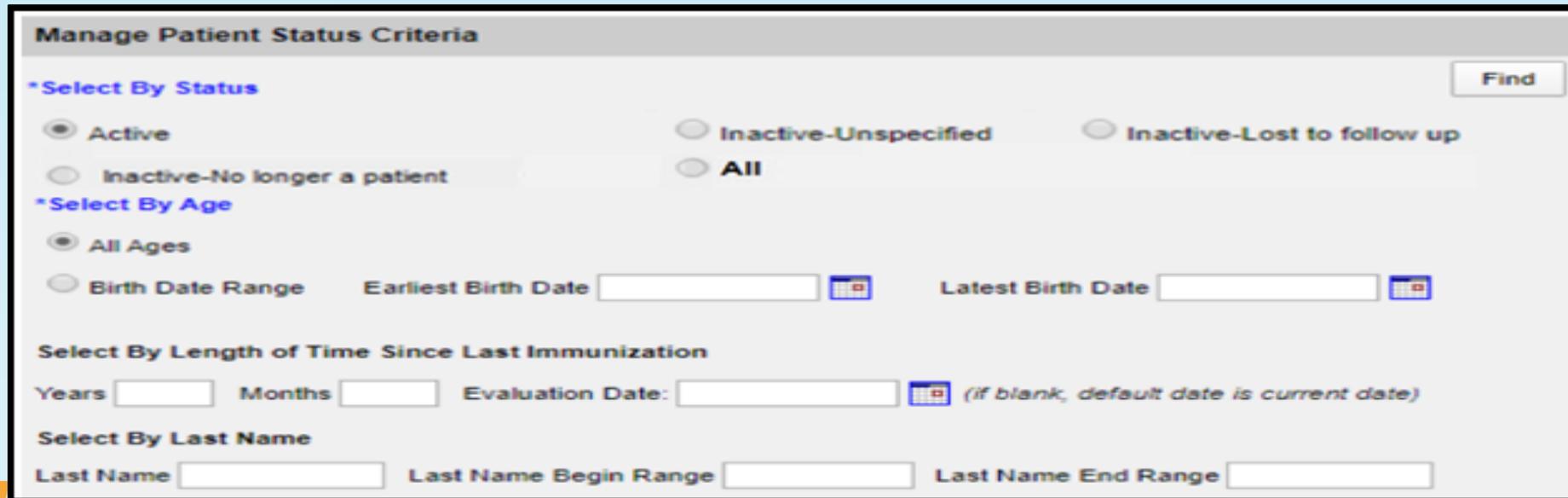
# Patient status categories

- 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/>
- Click the 'manage patient status' link on the left blue menu, the Manage Patient Status Criteria page will appear:



The screenshot shows the 'Manage Patient Status Criteria' form. It includes a 'Find' button in the top right corner. The form is divided into several sections for filtering patients:

- \*Select By Status:** Radio buttons for 'Active' (selected), 'Inactive-No longer a patient', 'Inactive-Unspecified', 'All', and 'Inactive-Lost to follow up'.
- \*Select By Age:** Radio buttons for 'All Ages' (selected) and 'Birth Date Range'. The 'Birth Date Range' section includes 'Earliest Birth Date' and 'Latest Birth Date' text boxes with calendar icons.
- Select By Length of Time Since Last Immunization:** Text boxes for 'Years', 'Months', and 'Evaluation Date' (with a calendar icon). A note states: '(if blank, default date is current date)'. There is also a 'Select By Last Name' section with text boxes for 'Last Name', 'Last Name Begin Range', and 'Last Name End Range'.



# 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.

New Status Value							Save	Cancel
Patient Status Result Set Returned 1-26 of 26								
Page Select	Desc	Last Name	First Name	Birth Date	CAIR ID	Current Status		
<input type="checkbox"/> All								
<input type="checkbox"/>		AARONS	MICHAEL	01/02/2000	146969	ACTIVE		
<input type="checkbox"/>		ALMOND	JOY	06/01/2000	145637	ACTIVE		
<input type="checkbox"/>		AZAIR	HELEN	06/01/2015	146970	ACTIVE		
<input type="checkbox"/>		BOOP	BETTY	05/08/2008	145423	ACTIVE		
<input type="checkbox"/>		BUG	JUNE	02/05/2009	145403	ACTIVE		
<input type="checkbox"/>		CHOCO	CHIP	12/16/2016	145406	ACTIVE		

- 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

Select the Vaccine Group To Report on

Use All Vaccine Groups

Use Vaccine Groups Selected

Adeno  
Anthrax

Add

Remove

Include Subpotent Vaccinations

Exclude Flu Vaccine from Report

Vaccines Due Now

Vaccines Past Due

Both



# Reminder recall continued...

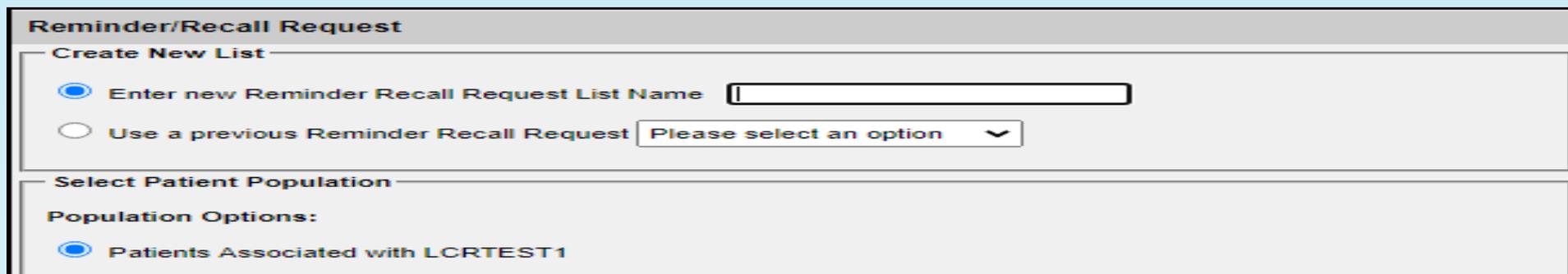
There are many options in Reminder Recall:

- 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:



The screenshot shows the 'Reminder/Recall Request' form. It is divided into two main sections. The first section, 'Create New List', contains two radio button options: 'Enter new Reminder Recall Request List Name' (which is selected) and 'Use a previous Reminder Recall Request'. The second section, 'Select Patient Population', contains a 'Population Options:' label and one radio button option: 'Patients Associated with LCRTEST1' (which is selected).

- 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.



## FLU Vaccination Action Plan



### 3 Habits of Highly Successful VFC Clinics

Use any of these top flu strategies—gathered from providers like you. Choose a few that you can easily do now and develop a plan to slowly implement the others.

#### 1. Empower Your Staff

Assigned to: \_\_\_\_\_

**Designate a “flu lead” to plan and implement strategies.**

- Identify strategies that can be easily used in your practice.
- Assign staff to each task.
- Develop a plan to implement more strategies over time.

**Train all staff to communicate about flu vaccine in the same way.**

- Use the “presumptive approach” to set the tone that getting flu vaccine is **routin**e like other vaccines. Assume that patients will get vaccinated. Examples:  
“I see that Maria has not received her flu shot yet! I’ll get that ready for her now.” Or  
“Today we’ll be protecting your baby from flu by giving him/her the flu vaccine.”
- Review Tips for Talking with Parents about Flu Vaccine to address common concerns.
- Discuss sick visits as an opportunity to immunize and under what circumstances.
- Arrange annual training for Medical Assistants (MAs) on your flu vaccine products (appropriate ages, who is due for a second dose, etc.). See CDC webinar on Influenza Updates.
- Encourage your team to use every interaction to promote flu vaccine:
  - Front desk staff can share VIS ahead of time via email or at check-in.
  - MA encourages vaccination.
  - If parent declines, then the provider can ease specific concerns.

**Walk the talk. Ensure clinic staff get flu shots.**

- Purchase and offer flu vaccine onsite to staff.
- Require staff to get a flu shot or offer raffle prizes to encourage vaccination.
- Document flu vaccine declinations.
- Create “I got my flu shot” stickers or buttons for staff.

California Department of Public Health  
Immunization Branch  
EZIZ.org  
This publication was supported by Grant Number H23/COH922507 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



IMM-1274 (9/20)

<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.)

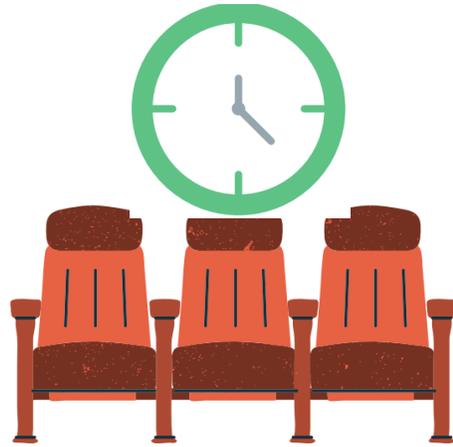


# Encourage flu vaccine at every interaction



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**Tips for Speaking with Parents about Flu Vaccine**  
How to Address Common Concerns

**I heard the flu shot can give you the flu.**

- Flu vaccines are made with killed or weakened viruses that cannot give you the flu.
- Sometimes the body's immune response after vaccination can make some people feel a little ill, and that's normal. For example, some kids may get a slight fever, but that's their body responding and building antibodies to protect them from the flu.

**My child got vaccinated last year and still got sick.**

- Many other germs cause symptoms similar to flu—your child might have caught one of them.
- Flu vaccine takes 2 weeks to work. Your child may have been infected with flu or another virus before developing immunity.
- Flu vaccines are not 100% effective. However, even if your child catches the flu, the illness will be much less severe.

**Flu vaccine is not effective. Why bother?**

- Flu is very serious and can cause pneumonia, hospitalization, and death.
- Without the flu vaccine, your child has zero added protection if he/she gets exposed. It's not worth the risk. Healthy children who were vaccinated lowered their chance of dying from flu by 65%. That's pretty remarkable.

**My child is healthy and doesn't need a flu shot.**

- Flu viruses mutate constantly and change from year to year.
- Every year, healthy kids who have never caught the flu before, suddenly get it.
- Flu can spread easily at school, while playing with friends, or being out in the community.
- I am healthy and got my flu shot. I also immunized my kids, and as your doctor/nurse, I want your family to also be protected.
- Scarlet died from flu complications at age 5; to her mother's regret, she was not vaccinated. Watch Scarlet's Story and share with clinic staff and parents.

**I'm concerned about side effects.**

- Vaccines, like any medication, can cause side effects. With flu shots most effects are mild, primarily pain or redness in the arm.
- This should go away quickly. If you have any concerns after getting vaccinated, please call us.

**I don't want vaccines with thimerosal/mercury**

- Most flu vaccine is thimerosal-free.
- For kids under 3, you'll be getting the vaccine without any thimerosal. Flu vaccine with or without thimerosal is safe and effective.
- Only multi-dose vials contain thimerosal to prevent contamination when needles are inserted into the vial more than once.
- If parents are still concerned, you can show this 3 minute video: Is there Mercury in Vaccines? by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

**The flu is just like a bad cold—it's not serious.**

- Flu is sometimes confused with a cold. Flu viruses are not the same as a cold. When a person catches the flu, they often have a fever and body aches; most also have to miss days of work or school. When complications set in, flu can be life-threatening. While babies, pregnant women, those with certain health conditions, and seniors are at highest risk, even healthy children can die from flu.
- More than 900,000 people were hospitalized and about 80,000 people died in the U.S. from flu in the 2017-18 season.

**My child is afraid of needles.**

- If available, offer the LAIV (nasal spray) flu vaccine.
- Let younger children sit in their parents' laps, practice distraction techniques. Suggest the parent bring a favorite snack, book or toy for comfort.
- Allow an older child to listen to music and ask them to take deep breaths.
- Reassure the parent and their child so they stay calm, and be honest about the pinch.
- Be supportive and offer praise. You can say: "I know you seemed worried about your visit today, but you did it! I'm so proud of you for being so brave! Maybe it will even get a little easier next time."

**VFC EZIZ.org**

California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch  
This publication was supported by Grant Number H23/CC4922507 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

IMM-1275 (11/19)

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

**Babies need you**  
to protect them from the flu

**Get Flu Vaccine**

Influenza can be dangerous for babies under 6 months old—but they are too young to be immunized against the flu.

**They need you to be protected.**

Flu immunization for you and your family is the best way to protect your baby from the flu.

**Flu vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older, especially:**

- Anyone around your baby, including your family, other children, and caregivers
- Pregnant women

**Make an appointment to get your flu vaccine today!**

California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch • 830 Marina Bay Parkway • Redwood, CA 94064

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

**Guess who?**  
needs a Flu Vaccine

**YOU!**

**Everyone 6 months of age and older needs a flu vaccine every year. Ask us about getting one today!**

Todos las personas mayores de 6 meses de edad necesitan vacunarse contra la influenza (la gripe) todos los años. ¡Pregúntenos por la vacuna hoy mismo!

This publication was supported by Grant Number H23/CC4922507 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

IMM-782 (7/17)

<https://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-782.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)

The VFC Programs was created to meet the vaccination needs of children from birth through 18 years of age.

## WHO'S ELIGIBLE



**Children eligible to receive VFC provided vaccines are:**

MEDICAID (MEDI-CAL)

CHILD HEALTH &

DISABILITY PREVENTION

(CHDP) PROGRAM

NO HEALTH INSURANCE\*

UNDER-INSURED\*\*

AMERICAN INDIAN

ALASKAN NATIVE

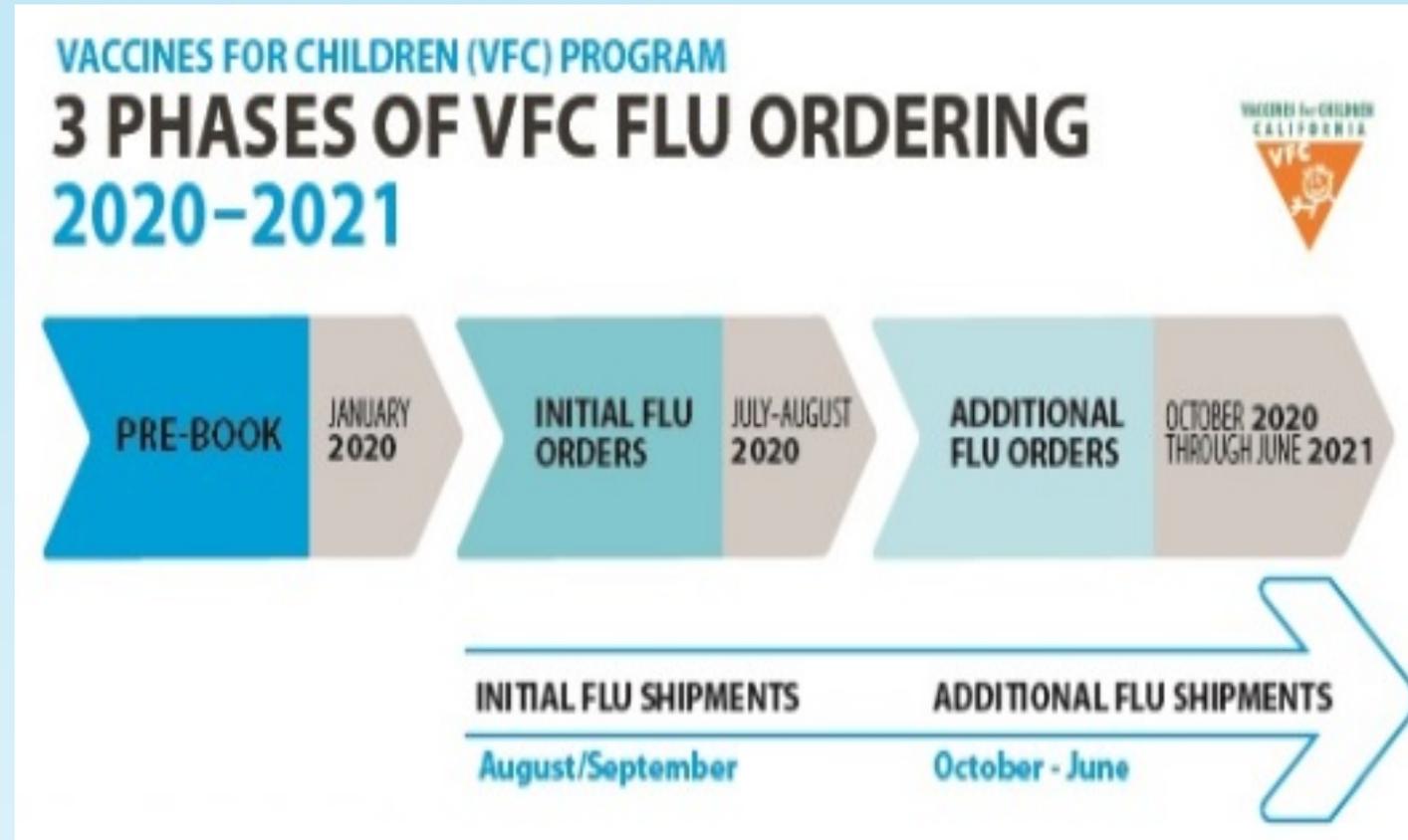


# Phases of VFC vaccine ordering

**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

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

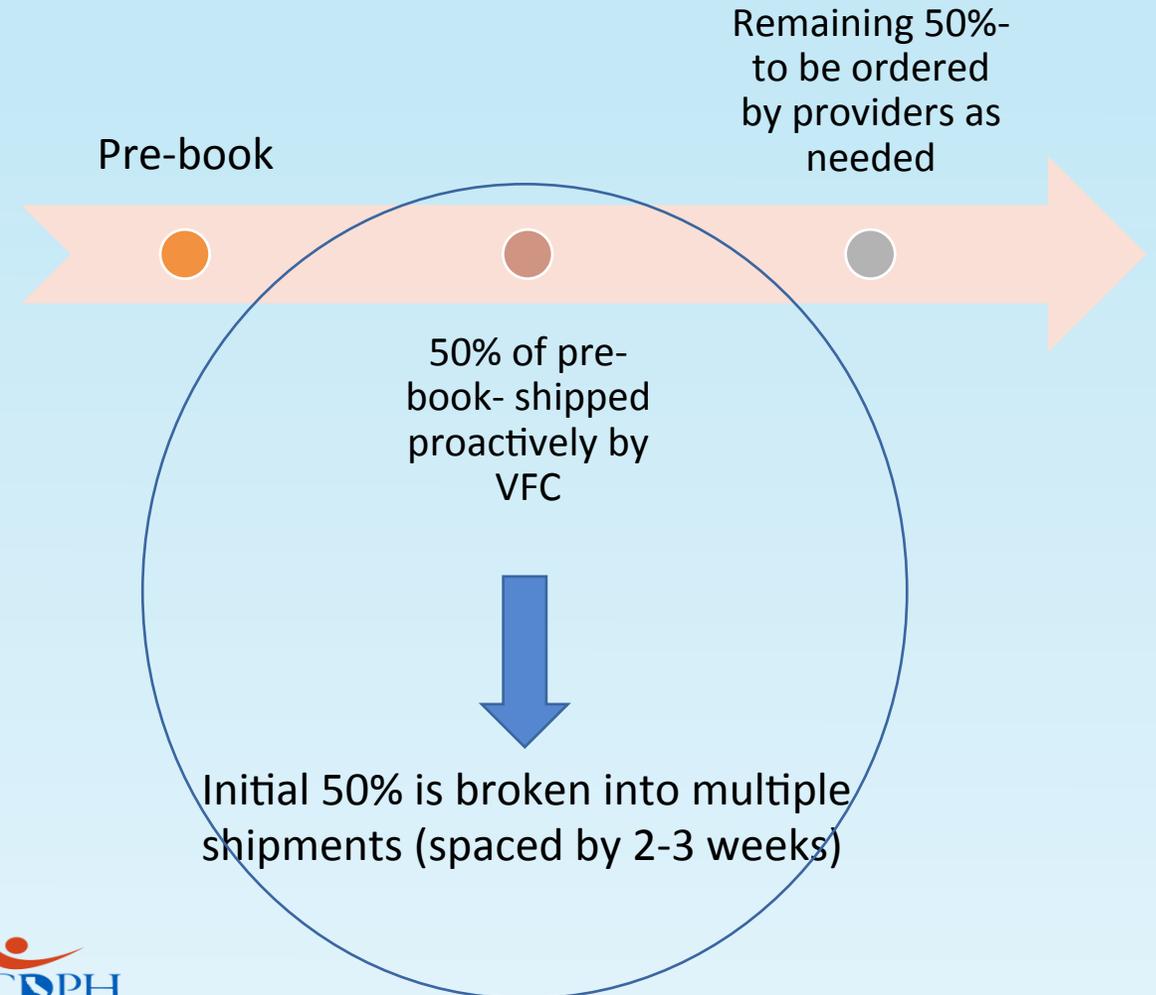
<sup>^</sup> Preservative-free vaccines should be prioritized for administration to pregnant teens under 18 years of age; but may also be used in children 3-18 years of age. According to the Health and Safety Code Section 124172, pregnant women or children younger than three years old may only receive 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**

*Vaccines for Children Program*

### 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):**
  - Fluarix® 0.5mL, Single-Dose Syringes (GSK)
  - FluLaval® 0.5mL, Single-Dose Syringes (GSK)
  - FluMist® 0.2mL, Single-Dose Intranasal Sprayers (AstraZeneca)
- **NOT YET AVAILABLE (estimated distribution to begin mid-September):**
  - Fluzone® 0.5mL, Single-Dose Syringes (Sanofi)
  - Flucelvax® 0.5mL, Single-Dose Syringes (Seqirus)

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Log-in to your [MyVFCVaccines](#) account to verify that your clinic's hours of operation are updated. This ensures a timely delivery of your vaccine shipments and prevents undeliverable shipment attempts which may lead to vaccine spoilage.

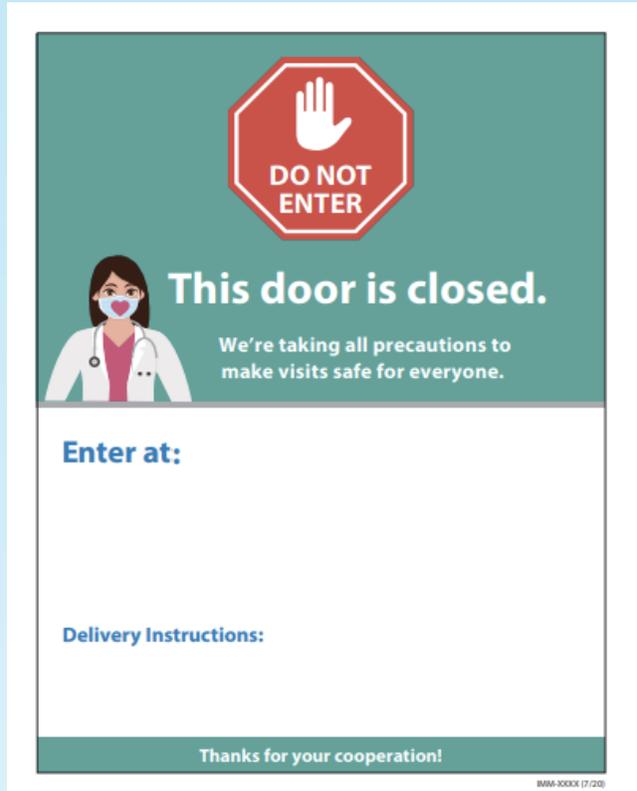
If your clinic will be closed due to COVID-19 or has limited hours, immediately notify the VFC Program and update your clinic hours to reflect any changes. If you expect to be closed for an indefinite amount of time, please review and complete the [Temporary Clinic Closure form](#) with your Provider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

Thank you,

California Department of Public Health | Immunization Branch  
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program  
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](mailto:MyVFCVaccines@cdph.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

**Home**

**Vaccine Programs**

**Vaccine Management**

**Storage Units**

**Temperature Monitoring**

**EZIZ Training**

**Job Aids & Resources**

**Contact VFC**

Phone: 1-877-243-8832  
Business hours:  
Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 4:30 pm  
Friday: 9 am - 4 pm  
Fax: 1-877-329-9832

- Find a VFC field representative in your area
- Find other VFC provider offices in your area
- Send us your comments at [MyVFCVaccines@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:MyVFCVaccines@cdph.ca.gov)

Sign up to receive EZIZ news and VFC letters via email

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**2019-20 Flu Excellence Awardees**

## Congratulations to the 2019-2020 California VFC Flu Excellence Awardees.

During the 2019-2020 season, the California Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) Program closely monitored ordering data, provided targets and feedback and resources to VFC providers via three personalized reports, and identified 550 practices that reached excellence, ordering 90%-100% of their VFC target flu doses!

The California VFC providers highlighted on this map excelled at protecting their young patients from flu and are recognized by the VFC Program as flu champions! Congratulations to our 2019-20 awardees. Thank you for protecting California kids against flu!

See Flu Excellence Awardees on map.

### Find VFC "Flu Excellence Awardees"

Enter Address or ZIP Code:

Search Within:  miles

Showing up to 50 closest providers

- [Phcs - Sbc Kennedy High](#) (0.8) miles.  
4300 Cutting Blvd , Richmond, 94804
- [New Day Pediatrics](#) (3.7) miles.  
900 Colusa Ave , Berkeley, 94707
- [Ucsf Benioff Children's Physicians](#) (4.3) miles.  
2970 Hilltop Mall Rd , Richmond, 94806

Ratings will be based on % of target reached:

- EXCELLENT:** ≥90%
- VERY GOOD:** 71%-89%
- GOOD:** 51%-70%
- NEEDS IMPROVEMENT:** ≤50%

VFC providers who reach excellence by June 30, 2020 will be recognized on EZIZ.org.

Map

- 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!



**VFA**  
California Vaccines  
for Adults

 **VFC**  
California Vaccines  
For Children



# Resources

## Influenza Guidelines & Patient Prioritization

- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/whoshouldvax.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>
- <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](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/>

