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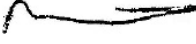


GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

July 17, 2020

IZB-FY-20-21-01

TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

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

SUBJECT: VFC 2020-2021 Initial Flu Vaccine Orders



Key takeaways from this letter:

- ✓ For providers that pre-booked VFC flu vaccine in January, the VFC Program has placed your initial order, which is 50% of what your practice pre-booked, on your behalf. No further action is required.
- ✓ For providers that did not pre-book, submit your initial orders by July 31, 2020. Product(s) allocated are based on remaining supply, and you cannot choose a brand preference.
- ✓ Initial orders will be sent in multiple shipments once vaccine arrives during the fall at our national vaccine distributor, McKesson.

IMPORTANCE OF INFLUENZA VACCINE

The California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program remains committed to work with you in ensuring children remain healthy and safe against vaccine-preventable diseases. The emergence of COVID-19 has affected all our lives and remains a threat to our health system. As the next influenza season nears, it is even more important that you prepare and act now to protect your patients from influenza disease. Although COVID-19 vaccines are not yet available, you can vaccinate against influenza.

INITIAL FLU VACCINE ORDERS

During the first phase of VFC's Flu Order Process in January, VFC providers had the opportunity to pre-book the total number of flu vaccine doses needed for the 2020-2021 flu season, indicating a preferred brand. Overall VFC Pre-book information (vaccine brands and doses requested) was taken into consideration for determining California's influenza vaccine supply for the upcoming season.



The second phase of California's VFC Program influenza vaccine order process, Initial Flu Vaccine Ordering, is now available. The purpose of the initial flu vaccine order is to ensure that VFC providers have an initial vaccine supply to begin vaccination efforts for the 2020-2021 Flu Season. Initial orders will be sent in multiple shipments once vaccine arrives during the fall at our national vaccine distributor, McKesson.

For providers that pre-booked doses in January:

- The VFC Program has placed your initial order, which is 50% of what your practice pre-booked, on your behalf.
- No further action is required to receive your initial order, unless you would like to receive *less* than 50% of what you had pre-booked.

For providers that did NOT pre-book:

- Available flu vaccine products have been allocated to your practice. Log into your MyVFCVaccines account to access the 2020-2021 Initial Flu Vaccine Order form and submit your Initial Flu Vaccine order by July 31, 2020. The maximum number of doses that may be requested for the initial flu vaccine order, which is a percentage of your practice's Season Target, will be displayed by brand and by age group. You may request more doses during the third phase of the VFC Flu Order Process in the fall.

ADDITIONAL ORDERS IN THE FALL

The third phase of the VFC Flu Order Process will begin in the fall once all initial orders have shipped. During this phase, the remaining amount of flu vaccine doses that your practice has pre-booked will be available to your practice throughout the 2020-2021 season. The VFC Program expects you will proactively order and draw down from this amount in order to vaccinate and protect all your VFC-eligible patients against flu. The VFC Program will notify all providers when they may begin ordering additional flu vaccine.

Once all pre-booked doses have been ordered and administered, you may place additional vaccine requests if your practice needs additional doses. Note that a justification may be required, and approval of any additional doses will be based on available supply and product(s), which may differ from what you initially received.

SEASON TARGETS

As in the previous flu season, we have set seasonal influenza vaccine administration targets for each VFC provider. The season target is our estimate of the number of flu vaccine doses your practice needs to immunize and protect your VFC-eligible patients. Your 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.

NEWLY ENROLLED PROVIDERS

Newly enrolled providers without any vaccine distribution history, or with limited usage as reported through routine VFC vaccine orders, will have a limited number of doses available for the initial flu vaccine order.

Providers may contact the VFC Customer Service Center or their VFC Field Representative if their VFC-eligible patient population has significantly increased since their enrollment date. Practice profiles can be updated on [MyVFCVaccines](#).

2020-2021 VFC FLU VACCINE PRODUCTS

Below is a list of all influenza products that comprises the California VFC Program supply for the 2020-2021 flu season.

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

^ 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.

IMPORTANT: You can only order product(s) approved from your pre-book or allocated to your practice. No changes to brand preferences can be accommodated, as doses have already been pre-booked through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additional doses approved later in the season will be based on remaining vaccine supply and may differ from what you had pre-booked. Ensure that your practice's electronic health systems have the capacity to accept other flu products.

2020-2021 VFC FLU VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

As in previous flu seasons, providers will receive their flu vaccine doses in multiple shipments throughout the season. Influenza vaccine supplies from different manufacturers arrive at VFC's national vaccine distributor at different times and in multiple shipments throughout the season, which is why flu vaccine cannot be shipped to providers all at once. All confirmed initial flu orders will remain in queue until flu vaccine supplies are received at VFC's national vaccine distributor, which is expected to begin arriving in August or September.

IMPORTANT: 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.

FLU ACTION PLAN

There are key strategies that you can implement into your [flu action plan](#) now to help you prepare for the upcoming flu season. Some of these key strategies include (1) using the presumptive approach to recommend flu vaccine—don't wait for the patient to ask, (2) identifying patients due for flu vaccine, and (3) recalling patients due for their first or second dose of flu vaccine. Review your VFC Flu Progress Reports sent to your practice throughout the past season and build on progress your clinic achieved. Reviewing your end-of-season report can help you determine your flu immunization goals for this upcoming season. Discuss these strategies with your practice staff now to ensure you can successfully vaccinate and protect all your patients against influenza.

During this unprecedented time of a pandemic, it is even more important now that you vaccinate your patients against influenza as part of routine and comprehensive care services. If possible, do not refer your VFC-eligible patients elsewhere to receive their flu vaccine, as outside facilities, such as pharmacies, are likely not VFC-enrolled providers and your VFC-eligible patients may be charged for a flu vaccine that they could have received at your practice at no cost. To alleviate patient concerns due to COVID-19, consider alternative vaccination approaches, such as conducting drive-thru or drive-up immunization clinics. For more information, view the recorded Afternoon TEAch Webinar [“Vaccines Are Essential: Guidance for Immunizations During the Pandemic.”](#)

VFC INFLUENZA PROGRAM LETTER AND ACIP RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons over 6 months of age, including 2 doses for some children younger than 8 years of age. A doctor's strong recommendation to receive flu vaccine is an important factor in a patient's decision to vaccinate. Routinely recommend influenza vaccines to all your VFC-eligible patients.

The annual VFC Program Influenza letter, including detailed information regarding this season's ACIP influenza vaccination recommendations, product dosage and administration, storage and handling guidelines, and other important information, will be released once recommendations are published by the CDC.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please call the VFC Customer Service Center at 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC).

For frequently asked questions, refer to the "2020-2021 Initial Flu Order FAQs" included with this communication. You can also contact your VFC Field Representative or visit our website, www.EZIZ.org.

Enclosures:

2020-2021 Initial Flu Order Confirmation Quick Guide
2020-2021 Initial Flu Order FAQs