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GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

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

SUBJECT: VFC 2021-2022 Initial Flu Vaccine Orders

Key Takeaways:



- ✓ Initial orders of VFC influenza vaccine (50% of the total pre-booked) have been placed. As usual, initial orders will be sent in multiple shipments this fall.
- ✓ No further action is required by providers who pre-booked in January.
- ✓ For providers who did not pre-book, please submit your initial orders by **August 13, 2021**; Brand preference cannot be accommodated in these orders.

IMPORTANCE OF INFLUENZA VACCINE

Both influenza and COVID-19 are threats to your patients and our health system. It is important that you prepare and act now to protect your patients against both influenza disease and COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines may be administered concurrently with other routine vaccines, including influenza vaccine.

INITIAL INFLUENZA VACCINE ORDERS

VFC Initial Flu Vaccine Ordering ensures that VFC providers have supplies to begin vaccination efforts for the 2021-2022 Season. Initial orders will be sent this fall in multiple shipments once vaccine arrives at our national distributor, McKesson. During the first phase in January, VFC providers had the opportunity to pre-book the total number of flu vaccine doses needed for the season, indicating a preferred brand.

For providers that pre-booked doses in January:

- The VFC Program has placed an initial order of 50% of your pre-book request.
- To receive initial orders (in multiple shipments this fall), no further action is required, **unless** you would like to receive <50% of what you pre-booked.

For providers that did NOT pre-book doses in January 2021:

- Log into your MyVFCVaccines account to access the 2021-2022 Initial Flu Vaccine Order form. Submit your Initial Flu Vaccine order by August 13, 2021.

California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
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- Allocations are based on remaining supply, so brand preference cannot be accommodated.
- The maximum number of doses that may be requested for the initial flu vaccine order is 50% of your practice's Season Target. This will be displayed by brand and by age group.

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 throughout the 2021-2022 season. The VFC Program will notify all providers when they may begin ordering additional flu vaccine.

SEASONAL TARGETS

As previous seasons, we have set seasonal influenza vaccine administration targets based on the number of VFC-eligible patients your practice immunized with routine pediatric vaccines during the past year.

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

2021-2022 VFC FLU VACCINE PRODUCTS

Age Group	Product	Presentation (single dose)	Mfr.	NDC Code
6 months - 18 years	Fluarix® ^	0.5 ml syringe, 10 pack	GSK	58160-0887-52
	FluLaval® ^	0.5 ml syringe, 10 pack	GSK	19515-0818-52
	Fluzone® ^	0.5 ml syringe, 10 pack	Sanofi	49281-0421-50
2-18 years	Flumist® ^	0.2 ml intranasal sprayer	AstraZeneca	66019-0308-10
	Flucelvax® +	0.5 ml syringe, 10 pack	Seqirus	70461-0321-03

^ Preservative-free vaccines should be prioritized to pregnant teens under 18 years of age but may also be used in children 6 months-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 is now licensed for patients 2 years of age and up. Recommendations for all flu vaccine products will be released by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in the fall.

IMPORTANT: You may only order products approved from your pre-book or allocated to your practice. No changes to brands can be accommodated, as doses have already been pre-booked through CDC. Additional doses requested later in the season will be shipped based on remaining supplies and may differ from what you had originally pre-booked. Ensure that your practice's electronic health systems can accommodate any VFC influenza vaccine option.

DISTRIBUTION

Vaccine supplies are expected to begin arriving in at the national VFC distributor in late August or September. Keep in mind:

- Providers will receive vaccine in multiple shipments throughout the season.
- Supplies from different manufacturers arrive at different times.

IMPORTANT: Immediately notify the VFC Program of any changes to your clinic hours.

ACTION PLAN

Strategies to use now in your [flu action plan](#) include:

- Actively recommend influenza vaccine—don't wait for the patient to ask.
- Identify patients due for influenza vaccine,
- Recall patients due for their first or second dose of influenza vaccine.
- Consider drive-thru/drive-up immunization clinics given concerns about COVID-19.
- Review your VFC Flu Progress Reports sent to your practice throughout the past season and build on progress your clinic achieved.
- Review your end-of-season report to guide your goals for this upcoming season.
- Discuss these strategies with your staff now.

Vaccinate your patients against influenza during routine and comprehensive care. Do not refer your VFC-eligible patients to receive flu vaccine elsewhere, as your VFC-eligible patients may be charged there for vaccine that they could have received at your practice at no cost. For more information on immunizing during the pandemic, go to <https://eziz.org/resources/immunizations-during-covid-19/>

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. The annual VFC Program Influenza letter will be released once the annual ACIP recommendations are published.

QUESTIONS?

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

You may also refer to the “VFC 2021-2022 Flu Order Frequently Asked Questions” included with this communication. You can also contact your VFC Field Representative or visit our website, www.EZIZ.org.

Enclosures:

VFC 2021-2022 Initial Flu Order Confirmation Quick Guide
VFC 2021-2022 Flu Order Frequently Asked Questions