



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond, CA 94804

Toll Free Phone:
877-2GET-VFC (877-243-8832)

Toll Free Fax:
877-FAXX-VFC (877-329-9832)

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VFC Program Influenza Season Update

Dear VFC Program providers,

The holidays are behind us, but flu season isn't. Influenza activity continues to rise across the United States, with a number of reports of severe respiratory illness among young and middle-aged adults.

Protect your patients by making sure:

- Children 6 months and older in your practice who have not yet gotten vaccinated this season should get vaccinated as soon as possible. This is the single best way to protect them against seasonal flu and its potential severe consequences.
- Every patient's immunization record is checked at every visit. It's a good opportunity to offer immunizations they might be missing.
- Your clinic has adequate influenza vaccine supply during all of flu season. Take advantage of VFC's available vaccine supply for supplemental orders.
- When ordering, verify your clinic's shipping hours and update them if necessary. Also keep in mind that your request will be shipped in full; you'll need space in your refrigerator to store all doses requested. Confirmed flu vaccine orders cannot be canceled.
- Patient influenza promotion resources are available in your practice. Helpful materials can be found on VFC's EZIZ Flu Page at <http://eziz.org/resources/flu-promo-materials>
- And check out CDC's What You Should Know for the 2013-2014 Flu Season page at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2013-2014.htm>

Reminder: The VFC Program offices will be closed on Monday January 20th, 2014, due to MLK's holiday. Orders will continue to be accepted.