

MEMO

TO: Prevention Partnership Providers and
Local Public Health Units

FROM: Miranda Baumgartner *MB*
VFC/AFIX Coordinator

RE: 2018- 2019 State-Supplied Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

DATE: August 13, 2018

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program is supplying seasonal influenza vaccine for the 2018 - 2019 season to private providers for use in only those children who are **Vaccines for Children (VFC) eligible**. This includes children 18 years and younger who are either Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, uninsured or underinsured.

Influenza vaccine will also be supplied to local public health units for VFC eligible children. Additionally, a special prebook of influenza vaccine will be available this fall to local public health units to request vaccine for un/underinsured adults (i.e., homeless population). This influenza vaccine would be available for local public health units only. Influenza vaccine that was prebooked by local public health units for VFC eligible patients in the spring should not be used for the adult population. VFC is an entitlement program, so if children are eligible to receive vaccine they must be able to receive VFC vaccine.

Distribution:

State-supplied influenza vaccine will be distributed by McKesson. Vaccine will be distributed in multiple shipments in late summer/early fall. Providers can expect their first shipments of state-supplied influenza vaccine in August or early September. An automated email will be sent out to the primary and secondary vaccine contacts when an influenza vaccine order has been placed by NDDoH on behalf of that particular provider based on their prebook submitted this past spring. Additional influenza vaccine cannot be ordered by providers until all influenza vaccine allocations have been distributed. Providers will be notified when ordering is available.

Change in Fluarix® Licensure:

On January 11, 2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved GlaxoSmithKline's influenza vaccine Fluarix® for administration to anyone six months of age and older. Previously this vaccine was only licensed for patients three years and older. **Everyone receiving Fluarix® influenza vaccine should receive a 0.5 mL dose, regardless of age.** This differs from Sanofi Pasteur's Fluzone® product, where there are two different dosages depending on age. This vaccine was included in the spring VFC influenza prebook and will be shipped to VFC providers. There are now three influenza products that can be used to vaccinate anyone 6 months of age and older: Fluzone®, Flulaval® and Fluarix®. Prior to the start of influenza vaccination please ensure all staff are educated and comfortable with age indications and dosages for influenza vaccine that your facility stocks.

Change in LAIV Recommendation:

For the 2018-2019 season, LAIV is recommended as an option for influenza vaccination for persons for whom it is otherwise appropriate. For the 2018-2019 season providers may choose to administer any licensed, age appropriate influenza vaccine. The NDDoH VFC program **is anticipating not** offering LAIV influenza vaccine for the 2018-2019 influenza season.

Borrowing:

For seasonal influenza vaccine, providers may use private stock seasonal influenza vaccine to vaccinate VFC eligible children, if VFC seasonal influenza stock is not yet available. Those private stock doses used on VFC eligible children can later be replaced when VFC stock become available. However, VFC stock is not always guaranteed and providers run the risk of not having private doses repaid. Providers should not administer private Flumist® to VFC eligible children as the Immunization Program is unaware when or if the doses would be able to be paid back.

Two-Dose Recommendation for Children Ages Six Months – Eight Years:

- Children ages six months through eight years receiving influenza vaccine for the first time require two doses, at least four weeks apart.
- For the 2018- 2019 influenza season, the recommendations have not changed since the previous influenza season. For any child who has received two or more doses of influenza vaccine prior to July 1, 2018, only one dose is recommended for this influenza season. Consideration of type of influenza vaccine is unnecessary. The number of doses given prior to July 1, 2018 is the only consideration necessary.
- **Recommendations for children for the 2018 - 2019 influenza season can be found on the enclosed influenza vaccine algorithm or on the immunization program website at www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Providers/Forms.aspx.**

Timing of Vaccination:

The CDC recommends that seasonal influenza vaccine be administered to all age groups as soon as it becomes available. Antibody to seasonal, inactivated influenza vaccine declines in the months following vaccination. However, antibody level at a point several months after vaccination does not necessarily correlate with clinical vaccine effectiveness. There are no studies that compare vaccine effectiveness according to the month when the vaccination was given.

Important Reminders About Influenza Vaccination:

- The 2018 - 2019 trivalent vaccine contains strains: A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)-like, A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2)-like virus and a B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus. The quadrivalent vaccine contains one additional B/Phuket/3073/2013 strain.
- When entering influenza vaccines into your electronic medical record and/or into the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS), it is important to make sure you are entering the correct type of influenza vaccine. Please see the attached NDIIS flu vaccine abbreviation guide. It is also available at www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Providers/Forms.aspx.
- The minimum interval between doses of injectable influenza vaccines is four weeks.
- Intradermal influenza vaccine is licensed for those 18 – 64 years of age.
- High dose influenza vaccine is licensed for individuals 65 years of age and older.

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Vaccine Information Statements:

The 2018 - 2019 Influenza Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are available from the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html>. Providers are responsible for printing and supplying their own VISs. The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Act of 1986 requires that immunization providers provide a copy of the applicable VIS for each vaccine administered. The VISs have not changed from the 2017 – 2018 influenza season, so if providers have stock from the last influenza season they may continue to use these.

Influenza Educational Materials:

The NDDoH has influenza vaccine posters that are now available for order. Providers should visit the following website to see a preview of the poster and to order copies:
www.ndhealth.gov/immunize/order/.

Please feel free to contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.