


## MEMO

**TO:** Prevention Partnership Providers and  
Local Public Health Units

**FROM:** Miranda Baumgartner   
Vaccines for Children/QI Coordinator

**RE:** 2019- 2020 State-Supplied Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

**DATE:** August 12, 2019

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program is supplying seasonal influenza vaccine for the 2019 - 2020 season to Vaccines for Children (VFC) enrolled providers for use in those children who are **VFC eligible**. This includes children 18 years and younger who are either Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, uninsured, or underinsured.

Additionally, local public health units and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) were able to request state-supplied influenza vaccine for un/underinsured adults (e.g. homeless population). This influenza vaccine is available for local public health units and Federally Qualified Health Centers **only**.

### **Distribution:**

VFC providers pre-booked influenza vaccine with the NDDoH in early 2019. The NDDoH Immunization Program will allocate influenza vaccine to providers equitably based on what was pre-booked and how much vaccine has been allocated to the NDDoH. State-supplied influenza vaccine will be distributed by McKesson, the third-party distributor for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 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 VFC vaccine contacts when an influenza vaccine order has shipped. Additional influenza vaccine cannot be ordered by providers until all pre-booked influenza vaccine has been distributed. Providers will be notified when ordering for additional influenza vaccine is available.

**Change in Fluzone® 0.5mL Age Indication:**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Sanofi Pasteur's influenza vaccine, Fluzone® 0.5 mL formulation, for administration to anyone six months of age and older. Previously this vaccine was licensed for patients three years and older. **Sanofi Pasteur's Fluzone® product does have two different formulations (0.25 mL and 0.5 mL) that can be administered to patients 6 – 35 months.**

There are three influenza vaccine formulations 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. See the attached *Influenza Vaccine Dosage Chart* for more information.

**Borrowing:**

For seasonal influenza vaccine, providers may use privately purchased influenza vaccine to vaccinate VFC eligible children if VFC influenza vaccine is not yet available. Those private doses administered to VFC eligible children can later be replaced when VFC vaccine becomes available. VFC vaccine is not always guaranteed, however, and providers run the risk of not having private doses repaid.

**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 2019- 2020 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, 2019, 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, 2019 is the only consideration necessary.
- Children who are 8 years old and need two doses of influenza vaccine should still receive the second dose even if they turn 9 between doses one and two.
- See the attached *Influenza Vaccine Algorithm* for more information.

**Timing of Vaccination:**

Balancing considerations regarding the unpredictability of timing of onset of the influenza season and concerns that vaccine-induced immunity might wane over the course of a season, it is recommended that vaccination should be offered by the end of October. Children aged 6 months through 8 years who require two doses should receive their first dose as soon as possible after vaccine becomes available to allow the second dose (which must be administered ≥4 weeks later) to be received by the end of October. For those requiring only one dose of influenza vaccine for the season, early vaccination (i.e., July or August) is likely to be associated

with suboptimal immunity before the end of the influenza season, particularly among older adults

**Important Reminders About Influenza Vaccination:**

- The 2019 - 2020 trivalent vaccine contains strains: A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1)-like, A/Kansas/14/2017 (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](http://www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Providers/Forms.aspx).
- The minimum interval between doses of injectable influenza vaccines is four weeks.
- High dose influenza vaccine is licensed for individuals 65 years of age and older.
- Due to limited safety data, non-adjuvanted influenza vaccines may be considered when giving another vaccine containing a novel adjuvant (i.e., Shingrix<sup>®</sup>, Heplisav-B<sup>®</sup>); vaccination should not be delayed if a specific product is not available.
- During influenza vaccination season, and at all times of the year, it is critically important that clinic staff who administer vaccines avoid injury to patients' shoulders by being knowledgeable about how to properly administer intramuscular injections in the deltoid muscle. Shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (SIRVA) can be prevented by ensuring that staff who administer vaccines recognize the anatomic landmarks for identifying the deltoid muscle and use proper intramuscular administration technique.

**Vaccine Information Statements:**

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 since August of 2015, so if providers have stock from previous influenza seasons, they may continue to use them.

**Influenza Educational Materials:**

The NDDoH has influenza vaccine posters that are available for order. Providers should visit the following website to see a preview of the poster and to order copies:  
<http://www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Providers/Order.aspx>.

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.