



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section

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July 9, 2010

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants
FROM: Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head
Immunization Branch
SUBJECT: *Urgent:* Influenza Ordering for the 2010-2011 Season

The purpose of this memo is to inform providers that the process for ordering influenza vaccine has changed for the 2010-2011 flu season. Beginning this season, in order to streamline ordering and eliminate backorders, there will be no pre-season ordering for influenza vaccine through the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR). Instead, **providers will need to assess their influenza needs for the entire season, and pre-book their vaccine orders by 3 P.M. on July 30, 2010.** Once providers call or fax in their orders for seasonal flu vaccine, the orders will be processed by the Help Desk staff and providers will receive a confirmation e-mail within 48 hours. Because of vaccine availability, most orders will be shipped in increments as vaccine becomes available at McKesson Specialty, rather than the entire order being shipped at once.

Remember that influenza vaccine provided by the NCIP is now available only for children who are 6 months through 18 years of age who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Based on your practice’s patient population, many providers will need to decrease their estimated need from last year. VFC provides vaccine only for the following categories of children:

- Medicaid
- Uninsured
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Underinsured (children who have commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines; children whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only), or children whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount - once that coverage amount is reached, these children are categorized as underinsured.)

Note: Children whose health insurance covers vaccinations are not eligible for VFC vaccines, even when a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan’s deductible had not been met or because the insurance did not cover the total cost of the vaccine.

Submission of NCIP Pre-Book Requests for Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

Before submitting your request for state-supplied influenza vaccine, please review your agency’s anticipated influenza vaccine needs and policies. Select those product(s) and presentation(s) best suiting the needs of your agency. Because of the high volume of pre-book forms processed in a short period of time, providers are cautioned to carefully consider their orders, since modifying the amount of vaccine pre-booked may not be possible.

Because supplies of seasonal influenza vaccines, both Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (TIV) and Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV), are allocated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), **the Immunization Branch may need to adjust your request after it has been placed in order to accommodate supply limitations.** Although some providers may prefer to carry only preservative-free vaccines, it is unlikely that NCIP will be able to accommodate all orders for preservative-free flu vaccines due to limited supply. Therefore, providers should plan to have multiple formulations of flu vaccine, including those containing preservatives. You may wish to designate that preservative-free vaccines be used only for specific age groups of children, or only for those who request preservative-free vaccine.

When you place your order, our Customer Service staff will offer a calculated estimate of your anticipated state-supplied influenza vaccine needs. This calculation is based on your historic doses administered data and the number of VFC children seen in your agency. If you have never ordered influenza vaccine from NCIP before, please be sure to tell us this when you place your order. An NCIP Pre-Book Request Form has been attached for your convenience and may be sent in at any time until 3 P.M. on July 30, 2010.



In order to expedite the shipment of influenza vaccine, the distributor of state-supplied vaccines, McKesson Specialty, processes flu vaccine on a packing line separate from all other vaccines. We anticipate shipment of vaccine to go smoothly; however, as in previous seasons, the shipment of flu vaccine from the manufacturers is staggered and not available all at once. Early in the season, all providers, especially larger practices, should be prepared for flu vaccine (both TIV and LAIV) to be delivered in multiple shipments. Providers should consider a vaccination plan that allows you to make use of small amounts of vaccine available early in the season until more vaccine becomes available. Once manufacturers have delivered all flu products to McKesson Specialty, flu orders will be shipped in full as supplies allow until the end of the season.

2010-2011 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Product Availability from NCIP

During the 2010-2011 influenza season, NCIP intends to provide several brands of influenza vaccine in various presentations. Specific quantities available will be determined by the CDC, and providers will not be able to specify preferred brands of vaccine. Please note that all TIV expires on June 30, 2011, while LAIV expires at various times. **Please pay close attention to expiration dates on LAIV shipped to your practice.**

Influenza products available this influenza season include:

Presentation	NCIP Age Criteria	Products
Preservative-free TIV .25mL prefilled syringes 10 doses per box	Children aged 6 through 35 months	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) CPT®: 90655
Preservative-free TIV .5mL single dose vials 10 vials per box	Children aged 36 months through 18 years	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) CPT®: 90656
Preservative-free TIV .5mL prefilled syringes 10 doses per box	Children aged 36 months through 18 years	Afluria® (Merck) Fluarix® (GlaxoSmithKline) Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) CPT®: 90656
Preservative-containing TIV 5mL multi-dose vial .25mL dose for persons aged 6 through 35 mos. .5mL dose for persons aged 36 mos. through 18 yrs.	Children aged 6 months through 18 years	Afluria® (Merck) Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) CPT® (.25mL): 90657 CPT® (.5mL): 90658
Preservative-free LAIV 10 dose sprayers per box	Children aged 2 through 18 years	FluMist® (MedImmune) CPT®: 90660

As a reminder, effective July 1, 2005 influenza vaccine was added to the list of vaccines eligible for compensation under Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP). When administering any vaccine covered by the VICP program, a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) must be provided to the parent/guardian/patient. The Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for the 2010-2011 flu season have not yet been published, but are anticipated prior to vaccine distribution. Once published, the VIS may be viewed on the CDC web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/VIS> The ACIP recommendations will be available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm>

Thank you for your cooperation with this change. If you need additional information or assistance please contact your Regional Immunization Nurse Consultant or the Immunization Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

Cc: SMT NC Immunization Branch Steve Shore Greg Griggs Maelyn Powell Timika Poston
Joy Reed NCIB Field Services Ann Nance Vaccine Manufacturers Jessica Gerdes Taryn Edwards

**NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (NCIP)
2010-2011 PRE-BOOK REQUEST FOR INFLUENZA VACCINE
****VFC-ELIGIBLE CHILDREN ONLY******

Date: _____

Pin Number: _____

Provider or Facility Name: _____

Provider or Facility Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

E-mail for confirmation of receipt (please allow 48 hours): _____

Presentation	NCIP Age Criteria	Requested Doses
Preservative-free TIV .25mL, prefilled syringes 10 doses per box	Children aged 6 through 35 months.	
Preservative-free TIV .5mL, single dose vials 10 vials per box	Children aged 36 months through 18 years.	
Preservative-free TIV .5mL, prefilled syringes 10 doses per box	Children aged 36 months through 18 years.	
Preservative-containing TIV 5mL vial .25mL dose for persons aged 6 through 35 mos. .5mL dose for persons aged 36 mos. through 18 yrs.	Children aged 6 months through 18 years	
Preservative-free LAIV 10 dose sprayers per box	Children aged 2 through 18 years	

Please complete this form with your requested influenza vaccine doses. NCIP will be taking orders to pre-book the influenza vaccine for the 2010-2011 flu season. **In order to receive influenza vaccine in a timely manner, pre-book requests must be submitted via fax (1-800-544-3058) or e-mail (flu_2010-2011@dhhs.nc.gov) BY 3 P.M. on JULY 30, 2010. Influenza vaccine orders may not be placed through the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR).** Pre-book requests received after this date will not be processed until after all other orders have been shipped in full. This is a very important process in trying to avoid wastage of vaccine while at the same time assuring that there is an adequate distribution of influenza vaccine.

Modifications/Cancellation:

Orders may be modified or cancelled by your facility until 3 P.M. July 30, 2010. Please note that orders that are not cancelled on or before 3 P.M. July 30, 2010 will be fulfilled according to the original request.

You may call the Immunization Branch Customer Service line at 1-877-873-6247, with any questions you may have regarding this process.