



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

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July 3, 2012

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head *BRW*
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: *URGENT:* Influenza Ordering for the 2012-2013 Season

The purpose of this memo is to inform providers of the process for ordering influenza vaccine from the North Carolina Immunization Program for the 2012-2013 flu season. As was the case last season, in order to streamline ordering and eliminate back orders, 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 using the attached Pre-Book Request Form now through 3 P.M. on July 27, 2012.** Once providers have **faxed** (to 1-800-544-3058), or scanned and **emailed** (to flu.2012-2013@dhhs.nc.gov) their orders for seasonal flu vaccine, the orders will be processed by Immunization Branch staff. Providers will receive a confirmation e-mail within 48 hours. **Due to staggered availability of influenza vaccine, most orders will be shipped in increments as vaccine becomes available at McKesson Specialty, rather than the entire order being shipped 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 preparing a vaccination plan that allows for the use of small amounts of vaccine available early in the season until more vaccine becomes available. **We suggest that you not schedule large mass vaccination flu clinics until you are certain that your supply will be sufficient to do so.** 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.

NCIP Flu Vaccine Coverage

Remember that influenza vaccine provided by the NCIP is available for children 6 months through 18 years of age who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Additionally, regardless of age or insurance status, persons attending a North Carolina college or university and close contacts of infants who are less than 6 months of age are eligible for NCIP inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV). Close contacts include, but are not limited to, household members, clinical staff, day care personnel, etcetera, of any age. Because there is no federal contract for LAIV this year, the NCIP will not be able to provide LAIV for adults. For complete NCIP vaccine coverage criteria and VFC categories, go to: <http://www.immunizenc.com/coveragecriteria.htm>. Generally, the demand for influenza vaccine declines in November. Please anticipate a notification after that time alerting you that the coverage criteria have been expanded. This is to assure a wider availability of vaccine and to avoid unnecessary expiration of this valuable vaccine.

Flu Season Webinar

Once again this year, the NCIP will offer providers a free webinar on the topic of influenza vaccine ordering. Providers may choose between two half-hour (approximately) webinars on **Thursday, July 12, 2012**. The first session will be held at **9:00 AM**, and it will be repeated at **12:00 Noon**. No pre-registration is necessary to participate. The webinars will highlight strategies for accurately and effectively ordering influenza vaccine for the 2012-2013 flu season. Participating providers may simply type in the website address below (or follow the link under the announcements section in the NCIR) and call into the conference phone line in order to hear the presentation—**please remember to mute your phone!**

Date	Session Time	Website	Phone
July 12, 2012	9 AM	https://ncpublichealth.ncgovconnect.com/fluordering/	919-420-1375
July 12, 2012	12 Noon	https://ncpublichealth.ncgovconnect.com/fluordering2	919-420-1375

Submission of NCIP Pre-Book Requests for Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

Before submitting your request for state-supplied influenza vaccine, please review your practice’s anticipated influenza vaccine needs and policies. Select those product(s) and presentation(s) which best suit the needs of your practice. 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 pre-booked vaccine may not be possible once the order is processed.

We recommend that providers expect to vaccinate approximately 10% more patients than in the previous season. In order to determine the state-supplied flu vaccine used by your practice last season, your NCIR administrators may run a Vaccine Usage report (under “Inventory” in the blue menu to the left of the screen) for the time period between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

2012-2013 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Product Availability from NCIP

During the 2012-2013 influenza season, NCIP intends to offer several brands of influenza vaccine in various presentations. Specific quantities available will be determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); therefore the Branch will be unable to accommodate brand choice for influenza vaccine. Providers may receive multiple brands for the same presentation of vaccine. Because the supplies of seasonal influenza vaccines are allocated by the CDC, **the Immunization Branch may need to adjust your request after it has been placed in order to accommodate supply limitations.** Although 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 because of supply limitations. 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 as long as supplies are available. Please note that all TIV will expire on June 30, 2013, while **LAIV will expire at various times. Please pay close attention to expiration dates on LAIV shipped to your practice.** MedImmune, the manufacturer of FluMist®, will offer a replacement program, allowing providers to return some expired FluMist® for longer-dated product.

Influenza products available through NCIP this influenza season:

Presentation	NCIP Age Criteria	Products
Preservative-free TIV .25mL prefilled syringes 10 doses per box	VFC children 6 through 35 months of age	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) CPT®: 90655
Preservative-free TIV .5mL single dose vials 10 vials per box	VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age Persons of any age attending an NC college or university, and health care workers of any age	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) CPT®: 90656
Preservative-free TIV .5mL prefilled syringes 10 doses per box	VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age Persons of any age attending an NC college or university, and health care workers of any age	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.	VFC children 6 months through 18 years of age Persons of any age attending an NC college or university and health care workers of any age	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) CPT® (.25mL): 90657 CPT® (.5mL): 90658
Preservative-free LAIV 10 dose sprayers per box	VFC children 2 through 18 years of age No adults may receive state-supplied LAIV.	FluMist® (MedImmune) CPT®: 90660

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 with VFC vaccine when VFC stock becomes available. This one-directional borrowing exception is unique to seasonal influenza vaccine. For all other vaccines, limited borrowing may occur bi-directionally. All borrowing, regardless of direction, must be documented on the VFC vaccine borrowing report located on the NCIP website at: <http://bit.ly/BorrowingReplacement>. Instructions are on the form.

Please note: As of June 30, 2012, all flu vaccine for prior seasons will have expired. All expired vaccine in your inventories must be returned to the NCIP. NCIP users must transfer all expired inventory to Vaccine Distribution using the "Transfer All Expired" button and send all wasted vaccine to our Materials Area with a Wasted/Expired Vaccine Report. Instructions for returning wasted vaccine are available at <http://bit.ly/NCIRQuickReference>. Details are on page 7, in the section, *How to Report Expired State-Supplied Vaccine*. Instructions for non-NCIP providers are available on the Wasted/Expired Vaccine Report, available at <http://bit.ly/NCIPWastedExpired>.

The CDC requires those administering vaccines to provide the patient/parent/guardian the most recent Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). This influenza season's VIS, and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for the 2012-2013 flu season have not yet been published. 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 these procedures. If you need additional information or assistance please contact your Regional Immunization Nurse Consultant or the Immunization Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

Attachments

Cc:	SMT	NC Immunization Branch	Steve Shore	Greg Griggs	Maclyn Powell
	Joy Reed	NCIB Field Services	Jessica Gerdes	Vaccine Manufacturers	Taryn Edwards

