



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

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November 19, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Providers

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head *BRW*
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Expansion in Availability and Coverage Criteria for State-Supplied Influenza Vaccine for the 2012-13 Influenza Season

The purpose of this memo is to announce a change in the availability of state-supplied influenza vaccine for the current influenza season **only**. **Effective immediately**, influenza vaccine provided through the NCIP may be administered to **anyone over 6 months of age, including adults, regardless of insurance status**. Adults (persons 19 years and older) may only receive state-supplied **injectable** influenza vaccine (TIV). Because all pre-booked influenza vaccine has been shipped at this point, **providers may order additional influenza vaccine** in three formulations: multi-dose vials, nasal sprayers, and 0.25mL single-dose syringes.

Influenza vaccine should be administered according to the seasonal recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The ACIP recommendations for the 2012-2013 flu season may be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm>

Because of holiday shipping restrictions, providers who wish to receive influenza vaccine prior to Tuesday, January 8, 2013 must order vaccine from the Immunization Branch before 3:00 PM Monday, December 10, 2012. An updated order form is attached for your convenience. **Providers may continue to use their private supply of flu vaccine, if they choose to do so, until that supply is exhausted.**

As is the case with all state-supplied vaccines, providers must be accountable for all influenza vaccine doses shipped to them. Providers using the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) must enter all doses into the registry. Providers not yet using the NCIR must report doses administered on a Vaccines Administered Log (VAL).

Please note that short-dated, state-supplied FluMist® is eligible for MedImmune’s FluMist® Replacement Program. The replacement program allows for the replacement of unused, expiring FluMist® doses at no cost, to help you maximize product usage opportunities. Information about this program is available on the NCIP web site at: www.immunize.nc.gov

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the regional immunization nurse serving your region, or contact the Immunization Branch at 1-877-873-6247. Thank you for all you do to protect the health of North Carolinians.

Cc: SMT Field Staff Central Office Staff Vaccine Manufacturers
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