



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health**

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June 24, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Departments

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

SUBJECT: Influenza Vaccine Ordering for the 2013-2014 Season

The purpose of this memo is to inform providers of the process for ordering influenza vaccine for the 2013-2014 season. As was the case in past flu seasons, in an effort 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 26, 2013.** Once providers have **faxed** (to 1-800-544-3058) or **emailed** (to flu.2013-2014@dhhs.nc.gov) their orders for seasonal influenza vaccine, the orders will be processed by Immunization Branch staff. 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.**

Introduction of Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine

Beginning this influenza season, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of quadrivalent (four-virus) influenza vaccines, which offer protection against four different influenza viruses: two A viruses and two B viruses. Influenza A and B viruses cause the majority of influenza illness almost every autumn and winter in the United States. Influenza vaccines have been used in the U.S. for more than 50 years, and since the early 1980s have been trivalent (three-virus) vaccines. Trivalent means the vaccine protects against three different influenza viruses: two A viruses and one B virus.

Limited amounts of quadrivalent vaccines are expected to be available as a nasal spray and a flu shot. In February 2012, the FDA approved FluMist® Quadrivalent, a quadrivalent live, attenuated nasal spray (LAIV4) vaccine. [The nasal spray contains live, but attenuated (weakened) influenza viruses and is given as a spray into the nose.] In December 2012, FDA approved Fluarix® Quadrivalent, a quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (flu shot). Fluarix® Quadrivalent contains killed influenza viruses and is given by injection with a needle, usually in the arm.

Eligibility for NCIP influenza vaccines

Remember that influenza vaccine provided by the NCIP is only available for:

- **Children, 6 months through 18 years of age, who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.**
- Any uninsured patient, 19 years and older, who are pregnant during the influenza season, and who are being served by the local health department (LHD) in any capacity, can receive state supplied influenza vaccine at the local health department. Adult women with Medicaid are considered insured for this purpose.
- Women with Family Planning Waiver coverage are considered uninsured and may receive vaccines at their LHD. An additional order form is enclosed for LHDs only.

www.ncdhhs.gov • www.publichealth.nc.gov • www.immunize.nc.gov
Tel 919-707-5550 • Fax 919-870-4824
Location: 5601 Six Forks Road • Raleigh, NC 27609
Mailing Address: 1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1917
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Please note:

- **State supplied live attenuated vaccine (LAIV4) may not be administered to adults.**
- State supplied vaccine influenza vaccine will not be expanded universally due to new federal restrictions on all state supplied vaccines for insured individuals. Therefore, you must order influenza vaccine privately if you wish to vaccinate insured individuals. See our memo dated March 18, 2013 at: <http://bit.ly/MarchFlu> for details.
- For complete NCIP vaccine coverage criteria and VFC categories, go to: <http://www.immunize.nc.gov/coveragecriteria.htm>.

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 the 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. Demand, federal vaccine allocations, and manufacturer availability impact the ability to modify influenza vaccine orders.

Because the supplies of seasonal influenza vaccines 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 providers may prefer to carry only preservative-free and/or quadrivalent vaccines, it is unlikely that NCIP will be able to accommodate all orders for these specific types of influenza vaccines. Therefore, providers should plan to have multiple formulations of influenza vaccine, including those containing preservatives and/or trivalent vaccines. Providers may wish to designate preservative-free or quadrivalent vaccines for certain risk groups, specific age groups of eligible individuals or for those who request these specific types of vaccines. These decisions are at the discretion of the provider when trying to assure the best coverage for eligible patients.

We recommend that providers anticipate a 10% increase in the number of influenza vaccines administered over the previous season. To determine last season's state-supplied vaccination usage, NCIP 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, 2012 and June 30, 2013. The 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 26, 2013. When pre-booking your flu vaccine, please keep in mind how much available refrigerated storage space you will have for properly storing the vaccines.

We anticipate shipment of vaccine to go smoothly; however, as in previous seasons, the shipment of influenza vaccine from the manufacturers is staggered and is not available all at once. Early in the season, all providers, especially larger practices, should be prepared for influenza vaccine (regardless of type) to be delivered in multiple shipments. Providers should consider a vaccination plan that allows for the use of small amounts of vaccine early in the season, until more vaccine becomes available. **We suggest that you not schedule large mass vaccination influenza clinics until you have a sufficient supply on hand to do so.** Once manufacturers have delivered all influenza products to McKesson Specialty, influenza orders will be shipped in full as supplies allow until the end of the season.

2013-2014 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Product Availability from NCIP

During the 2013-2014 influenza season, NCIP intends to offer several brands of influenza vaccine in various presentations. Specific quantities available will be determined by the CDC; therefore, the Immunization Branch will be unable to accommodate brand choice for influenza vaccine. Providers may receive multiple brands for the same presentation of vaccine. This year the NCIP will offer inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV). The trivalent vaccine is offered as an injectable only (IIV3), and the quadrivalent vaccine is offered in both injectable (IIV4) and live attenuated intranasal (LAIV4) presentations. Please note that all injectable vaccine will expire on June 30, 2014, while **intranasal vaccines will expire at various times. Please pay close attention to expiration dates on intranasal vaccines shipped to your practice.** MedImmune, the manufacturer of FluMist[®], will offer a replacement program, allowing providers to return expired FluMist[®] for longer-dated product, during a restricted period. Information regarding this program will come directly from MedImmune.

Influenza products available through NCIP in the 2013-2014 influenza season:

Presentation	NCIP Age Criteria	Products
Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3), P-free .25mL prefilled syringes 10 doses per box	VFC children 6 through 35 months of age	Fluzone [®] (sanofi pasteur) CPT [®] : 90655
Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3), P-free .5mL single dose vials 10 vials per box	VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age	Fluzone [®] (sanofi pasteur) CPT [®] : 90656
Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3), P-free .5mL prefilled syringes 10 doses per box	VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age	Fluzone [®] (sanofi pasteur) CPT [®] : 90656

Presentation	NCIP Age Criteria	Products
Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3), P-containing 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	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) CPT® (.25mL): 90657 CPT® (.5mL): 90658
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4), P-free .5mL prefilled syringes 10 doses per box	VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age	Fluarix® (GlaxoSmithKline) CPT®: 90686
Quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4), P-free 10 dose sprayers per box (intranasal)	VFC children 2 through 18 years of age No adults may receive state-supplied LAIV4.	FluMist® (MedImmune) CPT®: 90672

P = Preservative

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 administered to VFC eligible children can later be replaced when VFC stock becomes available, but remember VFC influenza supplies are not guaranteed. 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>. **Please note: borrowing and replacement is allowed only with vaccines of the same type: for example, providers may not use private trivalent vaccine and replace it with VFC quadrivalent vaccine.**

Remember: As of June 30, 2013, all influenza vaccine for prior seasons will have expired. If your NCIR inventory indicates that you have influenza vaccine on hand, but you do not physically have the vaccine, please contact the NCIP Help Desk (see phone number below) to have the vaccine removed from your inventory. Providers who do have expired influenza vaccine on hand 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 Form. 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-NCIR 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 VISs, and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) final recommendations for the 2013-2014 influenza season have not yet been published. Once published, the VISs for each influenza vaccine 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.

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