



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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**TO:** North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Local Health Departments (LHDs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

**FROM:** Wendy Holmes, R.N., Immunization Branch Head *WH*

**DATE:** September 6, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Influenza Vaccine Product Availability and Ordering for the 2018-2019 Season

The purpose of this memo is to inform LHDs, RHCs, and FQHCs of the process for ordering vaccine for the 2018-2019 influenza season and to make you aware of the available influenza products from the NCIP. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends annual flu vaccination for everyone 6 months old and older who do not have contraindications to influenza products. Receiving a seasonal flu vaccine each year remains the best way to protect against seasonal influenza and its potentially severe consequences.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducts studies each year to determine how well the flu vaccine protects against flu illness. Recent studies show vaccine can reduce the risk of flu illness by between 40-60% among the overall population during seasons when most circulating flu viruses are well matched to the flu vaccine. No preference is given for any influenza vaccine product. In general, current flu vaccines tend to work better against influenza B and influenza A (H1N1) viruses and offer lower protection against influenza A (H3N2). On June 8, 2018, ACIP published the recommendations for use of Quadrivalent Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV4) for the 2018-19 influenza season<sup>1</sup>. ACIP will continue to review data concerning the effectiveness of LAIV4 as they become available. For the 2018–19 U.S. influenza season, providers may choose to order and administer any licensed, age-appropriate influenza vaccine for those for whom it is otherwise appropriate.

Providers should assess your anticipated vaccine needs for the upcoming flu season based on your currently enrolled Vaccines For Children (VFC) population and ability to store the vaccines safely. We will attempt to fulfill orders in full if vaccine quantities are sufficient. In previous seasons we have not had large quantities available at the start of the flu season to fulfill all large orders; however, we will distribute what we have as quickly as possible. **If your shipment does not complete your full order request, please place an additional vaccine order(s) for the quantity you would like to receive.** Unfulfilled quantities will not be automatically shipped.

As in previous seasons, North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) users will place vaccine orders directly through the NCIR. Providers should consider a vaccination plan that allows for the use of smaller amounts, different products and presentations of vaccine early in the season, until more vaccine becomes available. If you

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<sup>1</sup> Grohskopf LA, Sokolow LZ, Fry AM, Walter EB, Jernigan DB. Update: ACIP Recommendations for the Use of Quadrivalent Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV4) — United States, 2018–19 Influenza Season. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2018;67:643–645. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6722a5>.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • Division of Public Health, Immunization Branch**

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are willing to use a variety of products and presentations, you should select those products in your initial order. Product substitutions may occur by the NCIP based on the availability of vaccine. When possible, substitutions will be made using similar products with the same presentation. We suggest that you have enough vaccine on hand before planning large flu vaccination clinics early in the flu season. The NCIP will provide updates on vaccine supply, ordering and shipments when available, on our website. As a reminder, influenza vaccine will be shipped separately from other NCIP vaccines.

### 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 VFC eligible
- Any non-Medicaid, pregnant women, 19 years and older, who are being served by an LHD, RHC, or FQHC in any capacity
  - Pregnant women covered by Medicaid are considered insured, and therefore are not eligible for NCIP vaccine
- Females of any age enrolled in the “Be Smart Family Planning Program” receiving services at LHDs, RHCs, or FQHCs

NCIP supplied influenza vaccine will not be expanded universally for non-VFC eligible individuals. Therefore, you must order private purchase influenza vaccine if you plan to vaccinate non-VFC individuals, regardless of their age. For complete NCIP vaccine coverage criteria and VFC categories, go to: <http://bit.ly/CoverageCriteria>.

### 2018-2019 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Product Availability from NCIP

During the 2018-2019 influenza season, the NCIP intends to offer several brands of influenza vaccine in various presentations. All influenza products provided by the NCIP will be **quadrivalent**. The quadrivalent flu vaccine is designed to protect against four different flu viruses; two influenza A viruses and two influenza B viruses.

#### Influenza products available through NCIP in the 2018-2019 influenza season:

Vaccine Type	Trade Name	Dose Size	Presentation	Age Group Covered	Pres-free or Preservative-containing
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)	0.25 mL	0.25 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children 6 months through 35 months of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	FluLaval® (GlaxoSmithKline)	0.5 mL	0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children 6 months through 18 years of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Fluarix® (GlaxoSmithKline)	0.5 mL	0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children 6 months through 18 years of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)	0.5 mL	0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)	0.5 mL	0.5 mL single-dose vials 10 pack	VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age	Preservative-free

Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)	0.25 mL or 0.5 mL	Multi-dose vial containing 5.0 mL each	VFC children 6 months through 18 years of age	Preservative- containing
Quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4)	FluMist® (AstraZeneca)	0.2 mL	Nasal sprayers	VFC children 2 years through 18 years of age	Preservative-free

For seasonal influenza vaccine, providers may use the one way borrowing policy and use private stock seasonal influenza vaccine to vaccinate VFC eligible individuals if VFC influenza is not yet available. Provider's private stock vaccine given to VFC eligible individuals will be replaced when VFC vaccine becomes available. This one-directional borrowing is unique to seasonal influenza vaccine only. All occurrences of borrowing must be documented on the VFC vaccine borrowing report form located on the NCIP website at:

<http://bit.ly/BorrowingForm>. Please note: all doses to be replaced, including total number of doses by vaccine type/brand/presentation and eligibility must be documented on the borrowing report form every time borrowing occurs. The dose for dose replacement requires vaccine replacement with the same product type. For example, private quadrivalent vaccine(s) will be replaced with VFC quadrivalent vaccine(s) only, which cover the same age groups. If providers use private vaccine for a 2-year-old patient, it should be replaced with a VFC vaccine indicated for children 2 years of age.

**Reminder: All 2017-18 seasonal influenza vaccine(s) have expired as of June 30, 2018.** Providers who have NCIP expired influenza vaccine on hand must transfer all expired inventory to McKesson in accordance with the current NCIP vaccine return policy. Return instructions are available on our website at: <http://bit.ly/WastedVaccine>.

All vaccine providers, public or private, are required by the National Vaccine Childhood Injury Act (NCVIA – 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26) to give the appropriate Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) to the patient (or parent or legal representative) prior to every dose of specific vaccines regardless of how the vaccine was purchased. VISs are information sheets produced by CDC and explain both the benefits and risks of a vaccine. The CDC announced flu VISs are no longer updated annually. The current VIS edition date for both inactivated (IIV) and live attenuated (LAIV) influenza vaccine is 8/7/2015. Additional information on VIS requirements may be viewed at:

<http://www.immunize.org/vis/>.

If you have any questions or need additional vaccine information or assistance, please contact the Immunization Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247 and press option 6.

cc: SMT, Regional Immunization Staff, CO, Vaccine Manufacturers, Elizabeth Hudgins, Frank Skwara, Erin Elsworth, Terri Pennington, Peter Graber, Harita Patel, Taryn Edwards, Ann Nichols