

Vaccines for Children Influenza vaccine is available

2017-2018 Influenza season

September 6, 2017

Dear Vaccines for Children Program Provider,

Influenza season is approaching and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program can now accept orders for vaccine.

Things to remember about ordering VFC funded influenza vaccine:

1. Order enough vaccine to cover a four to six week period.
2. If there is not enough vaccine in McKesson's supply to cover your order, the VFC program may adjust the order to accommodate limitations.
3. If your order is adjusted, the remaining amount will be placed on back order and shipped to you when it's available.
4. Influenza vaccine orders may be placed as often as needed throughout the 2017-2018 season, but only up to the quantity you estimated in February 2017.
5. Providers who are using the Vaccine Ordering System (VOS) can place influenza orders at any time during influenza season. VOS users must include and account for influenza vaccine when submitting the monthly Inventory and Dosage form. Information concerning adjustments to influenza orders will be found under the Comments Tab in VOS.
6. Providers who are not utilizing VOS should use the attached 2017-2018 Influenza Vaccine Order and Accountability Form to order and account for doses administered and inventory. This form can also be found at <http://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/immunizations/pdf/InfluenzaOrderAccountabilityForm.pdf>.
7. Report inventory by NDC number, lot number and expiration date.
8. Report inventory and doses administered once per month when submitting monthly accountability reports.
9. Report and submit wasted vaccine on the Vaccine Wastage and Return Form or in VOS at the time wastage occurs.

Included is an informational sheet regarding the seasonal influenza vaccine. A summary of the latest Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) influenza vaccine recommendations and an algorithm for dosage recommendations for the 2017-2018 influenza season is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/rr/rr6602a1.htm>. The summary recommendations highlight important updates on available products, vaccination timing, dose considerations and information about vaccination of specific populations.

Tackle the Flu resources are available for your use in educating your clients on the importance of vaccinating against the flu. These resources include coloring page, posters, tip card and fact sheet. They are available to you at no cost and can be ordered at <http://health.mo.gov/immunizations> or by calling 573-751-6124.

If you have any questions, please contact the VFC program at 800-219-3224. Thank you for your continued partnership to immunize Missourians against vaccine-preventable diseases.



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Important Influenza Vaccine Information

Mercury in Vaccines

As outlined in Section 191.235, RSMo, immunizations administered in the State of Missouri to knowingly pregnant women or children less than three years of age shall not contain more than one microgram of mercury per five-tenths-milliliter dose (applies only to multi-dose influenza vials). If the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services finds, and the Governor concurs, that an actual or potential public health emergency exists, including an epidemic, outbreak, or vaccine shortage, the rule may be exempted.

Vaccine Information Statements

The 2017-2018 inactivated influenza Vaccine Information Statements are available for download at <http://cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis>.

VISs have been translated into about 40 languages. These can be found on the website of CDC's partner, the Immunization Action Coalition at <http://www.immunize.org/vis/>. Not every VIS has been translated into every language.

Web sites

www.cdc.gov/flu

www.flu.gov

Influenza vaccine dosing algorithm for children aged 6 months through 8 years — Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2017–18 influenza season. Table as printed from August 25, 2017 MMWR.

