

Vaccines for Children Influenza Vaccine is Available

2018-2019 Influenza Season

September 10, 2018

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 influenza vaccine as often as needed, but only what will be used within four to six weeks.
2. Influenza vaccine orders may be placed as often as needed throughout the 2018-2019 season and are based on the brands and quantities pre-booked earlier this year. Vaccine **will not** be shipped until an order is placed.
3. If there is not enough vaccine in McKesson's supply to cover your order, the VFC program may adjust the order to accommodate limitations.
4. Partially filled orders will be placed on back order until the remainder of the vaccine requested can be shipped.
5. Some vaccines may not be available until late September. Orders will be held and processed when vaccine is available. Do not send duplicate orders.
6. Providers who are using the Vaccine Ordering System (VOS) must place influenza orders online 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 can be found via the Orders link under the Comments Tab in VOS.
7. **Only** providers who are not utilizing VOS should use the attached 2018-2019 Influenza Vaccine Order and Accountability Form to order and account for doses administered and inventory. This form will be added to our website at a later date. Influenza NDC numbers change each year and previous versions of this form **will not be accepted**. Doses in inventory and doses administered must be reported by NDC number, lot number, and expiration date. Doses in Inventory and doses administered should only be reported once per month when submitting monthly accountability reports.
8. 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 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 2018-2019 influenza season is available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/rr/rr6703a1.htm>.

The summary recommendations highlight important updates on available products, vaccination timing, dose considerations and information about vaccination of specific populations.

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

Influenza Vaccine Information Statements are available for download at

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html>

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

Influenza vaccine dosing algorithm for children aged 6 months through 8 years — Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2018–2019 influenza season. Table as printed from August 24, 2018 MMWR.

