

**PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
IN YOUR PRACTICE**

TO: All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

**FROM: Mick Bolduc
Vaccines For Children Coordinator**

DATE: September 30, 2008

SUBJECT: Inactivated Flu Vaccine now Available

The primary purpose of this communication is to notify you of the availability of inactivated flu vaccine for your **VFC-eligible population**.

Pediatric Influenza Vaccine

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends healthy children 6 months to 18 years of age be vaccinated yearly against influenza. The full 2008 Prevention & Control of Influenza Recommendations can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

Beginning October 1st, the Immunization Program is making available inactivated flu vaccine to immunize all VFC-eligible children 6 months-18 years of age. As a reminder, VFC eligibility is defined as follows:

- Medicaid enrolled
- No health insurance
- American Indian or Alaskan Native

In addition, those individuals who are underinsured (have health insurance that does not cover the cost of immunizations) can be referred to a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to be immunized with VFC-supplied vaccine.

Beginning on October 1st, you can order inactivated flu vaccine for your VFC-eligible population. Quantities of FluMist are also available for orders placed in October. During flu season (September-January) all practices can place orders for all vaccines on a monthly basis - even those on a bi-monthly or quarterly ordering schedule. Be sure to have your order in to the Immunization Program no later than the first business day of the month and limit your orders to what you will need for that month. As the flu vaccine supply will likely peak in November – January, we suggest you plan to do most of your ordering and vaccination centered around those months. We will return to a tiered ordering schedule (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly) on February 1, 2009. If you have already submitted your October order you can call our office to include an order for inactivated influenza vaccine.

Please see the chart below for the proper flu dosing by patient age. As a reminder, two doses of influenza vaccine administered one month apart are recommended for children less than 9 years of

age who are receiving the vaccine for the first time. We will be supplying several different products during the course of the flu season. **For October we will be making available Sanofi Pasteur's .5ml multi-dose vial and their .25 ml single dose syringe.**

The following is a list of the flu formulations we will be providing this influenza season:

Manufacturer	Vaccine	Formulation	Thimerosal	Age Indication
Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone	.25 ml single syringe	No	6-35 months
	Fluzone	.5 ml single vial	No	3 years and older
	Fluzone	.5 ml single syringe	No	3 years and older
	Fluzone	5 ml Multi-dose vial	Yes	6 months and older
Novartis	Fluvirin	5 ml Multi-dose vial	Yes	4 years and older
	Fluvirin	.5 ml syringes	No	4 years and older
MedImmune	FluMist	.2 ml sprayer	No	2-49 years

We will do our best to fill your monthly order as completely as possible, but you may not receive all the doses you requested, especially for orders placed in October before the full influenza vaccine supply is available. Thus, continue to order flu vaccine on a monthly basis. No backorders will be filled (e.g., if you order 100 doses and only receive 10, you will not be shipped the other 90 doses the next month unless you order them again).

Our hope is to supply you with preservative-free vaccine, but you may receive some thimerosal-containing product based on the inventory we receive from the manufacturers. Please be sure to check which product you receive before administering the vaccine.

As always, if you have any questions please call the State Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.

Age Group	Dosage	No. of Doses	Route
6-35 months	0.25 mL	1 or 2*	IM
3-8 years	0.50 mL	1 or 2*	IM or intranasal**
9 years and older	0.50 mL	1	IM or intranasal**

* 2 doses administered at least 1 month apart are recommended for children younger than 9 who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time or who received only one dose in their first year of vaccination.

** intranasal administration of live attenuated influenza virus is only approved for children 2 years of age and older and is a .2 mL dose.