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

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June 30, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Private Providers

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

**SUBJECT:** Influenza Vaccine Ordering for the 2014-2015 Season

The purpose of this memo is to inform providers of the process for ordering influenza vaccine for the 2014-2015 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 31, 2014.**

Once providers have **faxed** (to 1-800-544-3058) or **emailed** (to flu.2014-2015@dhhs.nc.gov) their orders for seasonal influenza vaccine, the orders will be processed and confirmed by Immunization Branch staff. Providers will receive a confirmation e-mail within 48 hours. Please be sure a valid email address is provided. If you have not received your confirmation within 48 hours, please call 1-877-873-6247, and press option 6.

**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.**

**Availability of Influenza Vaccine**

Beginning last 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. **This season all influenza products provided by the NCIP will be quadrivalent.**

**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.**

Please note that state supplied influenza vaccine will not be expanded universally (to non-VFC eligible children, or to adults) due to federal restrictions on all state supplied vaccines for insured individuals. Therefore, you must order influenza vaccine privately if you wish to vaccinate insured individuals, regardless of their age. 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.

In order to assist with determining the quantity of this year's order, you may use last season's state-supplied vaccination usage entered in the NCIR. NCIR 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, 2013 and June 30, 2014. 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 31, 2014. When pre-booking your flu vaccine, please keep in mind how much available refrigerated storage space you will have for properly storing the vaccines.

**Once you have received your entire pre-booked order**, should you require more vaccine, additional supplies may be available. Please check the NCIP web site, www.immunize.nc.gov, or the NCIR home page for information on additional vaccine availability.

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. For this reason, it's important to diversify your order with various presentations of vaccine.

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.

**2014-2015 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Product Availability from NCIP**

During the 2014-2015 influenza season, NCIP intends to offer several brands of influenza vaccine in various presentations. Specific quantities available will be determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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. 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, 2015, 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 exchange 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 2014-2015 influenza season:

| Presentation | NCIP Age Criteria | Products |
|---|---|---|
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4), Preservative-containing<br>**5 mL multi-dose vial**<br>0.25 mL dose for persons aged 6 through 35 mos.<br>0.5 mL dose for persons aged 36 mos. through 18 yrs. | VFC children 6 months through 18 years of age | FluLaval® (GlaxoSmithKline)<br>Fluzone® (sanofi Pasteur)<br>CPT® (0.25 mL): 90687<br>CPT® (0.5 mL): 90688 |
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4), Preservative -free<br>**0.5mL single dose vial -** 10 doses per pack | VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age | Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)<br>CPT®: 90686 |
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4) ,<br>Preservative-free<br>**0.5mL prefilled syringes -** 10 doses per pack | VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age | Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)<br>Fluarix® (GlaxoSmithKline)<br>CPT®: 90686 |
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4), Preservative-free<br>**0.25mL prefilled syringes -** 10 doses per pack | VFC children 6 months through 35 months of age | Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)<br>CPT®: 90685 |
| Quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4), Preservative-free<br>**0.2 mL prefilled sprayers -** 10 sprayers per box (intranasal) | VFC children 2 through 18 years of age | FluMist® (MedImmune)<br>CPT®: 90672 |

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, 2014, 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 (1-877-873-6247) to have the vaccine removed from your inventory on July 1, 2014. Providers who do have expired influenza vaccine on hand must transfer all expired inventory to Vaccine Distribution on or after July 1, 2014 using the guidelines set up in the 2014 Vaccine Return Policy. Attached is an information sheet which will walk you through the steps for returning ALL NCIP vaccines including the flu: http://bit.ly/returningexpired. For all non-NCIR providers please fax a completed copy of a Wasted/Expired Vaccine Report for your site, available at http://bit.ly/NCIPWastedExpired. Please include your complete site name, six digit pin, and phone number. Please make sure everything is legible and valid or this will delay the return process for your office.

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 2014-2015 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/hcp/vis/index.html. The ACIP recommendations will be available at: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html.

Thank you for your cooperation with these procedures. If you need additional influenza vaccine information or assistance please contact the Immunization Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247, and press option 6, or contact your Regional Immunization Nurse Consultant.

Attachment

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| cc: | SMT | CO Staff | Vaccine Manufacturers | Steve Shore | RINs | RICs |
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