



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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

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

DATE: August 20, 2020

SUBJECT: Flu Vaccine Product Availability and Ordering Notification for the 2020-2021 Season

This memo is to inform Vaccines For Children (VFC) providers of the process for ordering seasonal flu vaccine for the 2020-2021 flu season and to make you aware of the available flu products from the NCIP. Please take time to carefully review this memo in full. Remember that flu vaccine provided by the NCIP is available for children, 6 months-18 years of age, who are VFC eligible. In addition, any uninsured pregnant women, 19 years and older, being served by an LHD, RHC, or FQHC in any capacity and persons of any age enrolled in the “Be Smart Family Planning Program” receiving services at LHDs, RHCs, or FQHCs are also eligible to receive VFC flu vaccine. For complete NCIP vaccine coverage criteria and VFC categories, go to: <http://bit.ly/CoverageCriteria>. For the 2020-2021 flu season, the NCIP will be supplying additional flu vaccine for adults that are not covered under this memo. We expect the vaccine to be available by November/December. More information about this supplemental flu vaccine will be available at a future date.

Flu vaccination can be lifesaving in children to reduce the risk of flu and its potentially serious complications. CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older get a seasonal flu vaccine. Getting a seasonal flu vaccine is especially important for young children because they are at increased risk of getting severe illness from flu. Flu vaccination has been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and even death in children.

Receiving a seasonal flu vaccine each year remains the best way to protect against potentially severe consequences. This year, increasing flu vaccination coverage is critical. While flu vaccines will not prevent COVID-19, they will reduce the burden of flu illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths on the health care system and conserve scarce medical resources for the care of people with COVID-19. More information is available in a podcast at: <https://bit.ly/2020FluPodcast>.

Available vaccines and anticipated timing of flu vaccine shipping:

During the 2020-2021 flu season, the NCIP will supply several brands of flu vaccine in various presentations. All flu products provided by the NCIP will be **quadrivalent**. The quadrivalent flu vaccine is designed to protect against four different flu viruses, two flu A and two flu B viruses. Regarding the timing of flu vaccine distribution, flu vaccine will be shipped separately from all other routine NCIP vaccines. CDC’s centralized distribution process involves several steps, which are different from the steps that precede the delivery of private-ordered flu vaccine, which often results in private orders arriving before

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state vaccine. To address this issue and improve vaccine coverage, CDC has approved the two-way or bidirectional borrowing policy for use during the 2020-2021 flu season.

Vaccine Ordering:

Providers should ensure orders are sufficient to meet the needs of their Vaccines For Children (VFC) patients and assess their ability to store the vaccines safely. Consider a vaccine ordering plan that allows for the use of smaller amounts in combination with different products and presentations early in the season, until more vaccine becomes available.

Flu products available through NCIP in the 2020-2021 flu season:

| Vaccine Type | Trade Name | Dose Size | NDC | Presentation | Age Group Covered | Pres-free or Preservative-containing |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4) | Afluria® (Seqirus) | 0.25 mL | 33332-0220-20 | 0.25 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack | VFC children 6 - 35 mos. of age | Preservative-free |
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4) | Afluria® (Seqirus) | 0.5 mL | 33332-0320-01 | 0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack | VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age | Preservative-free |
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4) | FluLaval® (GlaxoSmithKline) | 0.5 mL | 19515-0816-52 | 0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack | VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age | Preservative-free |
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4) | Fluarix® (GlaxoSmithKline) | 0.5 mL | 58160-0885-52 | 0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack | VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age | Preservative-free |
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4) | Flucelvax® (Seqirus) | 0.5 mL | 70461-0320-03 | 0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack | VFC children 4 - 18 years of age | Preservative-free |
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4) | Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) | 0.5 mL | 49281-0420-50 | 0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack | VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age | Preservative-free |
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4) | Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) | 0.5 mL | 49281-0420-10 | 0.5 mL single-dose vials 10 pack | VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age | Preservative-free |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4) | Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) | 0.25 mL or 0.5 mL | 49281-0633-15 | Multi-dose vial containing 5.0 mL each | VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age | Preservative-containing |
| Quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4) | FluMist® (AstraZeneca) | 0.2 mL | 66019-0307-10 | Nasal sprayers | VFC children 2 - 18 years of age | Preservative-free |

Borrowing and Replacement:

For the 2020-2021 flu season only, providers will be allowed to use the two-way borrowing policy with seasonal flu vaccine in order to prevent missed opportunities for both VFC-eligible and fully insured children. Under this policy, providers may use VFC vaccine to vaccinate insured children or privately purchased vaccine to vaccinate VFC-eligible children **in the event there is a delay in shipment of either stock**. The amount of **flu vaccine** that can be borrowed is not limited to a certain amount, **however**, as with other VFC vaccine products, the borrowing policy does not alleviate a provider’s responsibility to appropriately order, in a timely manner, enough private flu vaccine to vaccinate insured children within the practice.

Please note: all doses to be replaced must be documented on the NCIP borrowing and replacement report form every time borrowing occurs. The process for borrowing/replacing has changed and no longer requires providers to call the Help Desk each time borrowing occurs or to submit the report to the Immunization Branch’s central office. Please see the attached checklist and key points related to borrowing for more information. When borrowing occurs, doses should be replaced 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 a provider uses private vaccine for a 2-year-old patient, it should be replaced with a VFC vaccine indicated for children 2 years of age. The brand does not have to be replaced with the same brand if the products have the same administration indications. The NCIP borrowing report required by the CDC is located on the NCIP website at: <http://bit.ly/BorrowingForm>.

Key Points:

- **North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) users will place vaccine orders directly through the NCIR.**
- **Providers should place orders throughout the flu season to replenish vaccine quantities as needed.**
- **Product substitutions may occur due to availability of brands and presentations during the flu season.**
- **Maintaining the cold chain is the first step in vaccine inventory management.**
- **All provider staff that might accept vaccine deliveries should be trained to immediately notify the vaccine coordinator or back-up coordinator when deliveries arrive.**
- **Vaccines must always be immediately checked and stored properly upon arrival.**
- **Two-way or bidirectional borrowing of flu vaccine is allowed, and the borrowing/replacement process has changed.**

- **All 2019-2020 seasonal flu vaccine(s) have expired as of June 30, 2020. Please remove any expired vaccine from the refrigerator and contact the Immunization Branch for assistance with transfers of expired vaccine.**

CDC has released Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic (available here: <https://bit.ly/PandemicGuidance>). This guidance is intended to help immunization providers in a variety of clinical and alternative settings with the safe administration of vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Immunization Branch 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

Bidirectional Borrowing and Replacement

- Bidirectional or two-way borrowing of flu vaccine is available for the '20-'21 flu season only.
- Doses must be **replaced with the same type of product (does NOT have to be the same brand)**, covering the same administration indications (e.g. private quadrivalent vaccine used for a 2-year-old child, must be replaced with a VFC quadrivalent vaccine indicated for a 2-year-old child).
- Doses must be replaced within **30 days (up to 90 days for flu vaccine if borrowed before December 31, 2020)**.
- The borrowing and replacement form required by CDC must be **completed for each dose borrowed** and retained on site. The form is found on the NCIP website at: <http://bit.ly/BorrowingForm>.
- The process for borrowing/replacing virtual inventory in the NCIR **has been streamlined** (see below)

Borrowing and Replacement Process/Checklist

Complete the following steps each time borrowing occurs (regardless of direction):

- Physically transfer** the vaccine you are replacing in your refrigerator (i.e. moving the vaccine from private supply to state supply or from state supply to private supply).
- Complete the Borrowing and Replacement Form** and maintain on site.
- Follow these steps for replacing stock in the NCIR:**

NOTE: Before beginning this process, be sure that all inventory contains an NDC number.

Click **Manage Transfers**

Click **New Transfer**

Choose "*Vaccine Replacement Due to Borrowing*" in the **Receiving Organization** dropdown

Beside the vaccine lot number you are transferring, enter the number of doses being transferred in the **Transfer Quantity** column

Click **Save** (you should see a message that says *saved successfully*)

Generate the **Packing List** or **Label**

Click **Ship**

Enter a **Ship Date**

Click **Ship** again

The **Immunization Branch Help Desk** will accept the transfer, change the funding code, and accept the vaccine back into your virtual inventory.