

## MEMO

**TO:** Local Public Health Units

**FROM:** Abbi Berg, MPH  
VFC Manager

**RE:** 2015 – 2016 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Pre-Book Information

**DATE:** January 12, 2016

For the 2016 – 2017 influenza season all Vaccines for Children (VFC) and state-supplied influenza vaccine pre-booking will be done online. The online survey can be found on the NDDoH's website at [www.ndhealth.gov/immunize/](http://www.ndhealth.gov/immunize/). Please complete the online influenza survey by **Friday, January 22, 2016**. It is very important that pre-book orders are received prior to this date, as the NDDoH has to pre-book influenza vaccine with the federal government. Once the survey is submitted, the provider's influenza vaccine pre-book has been placed with NDDoH. As usual, NDDoH asks all providers to print a copy of their submitted influenza vaccine pre-book to have on hand. The last page of the pre-booking survey will prompt providers to do this. Having a copy of your clinic's influenza vaccine pre-book will be helpful when vaccine begins to ship in early fall 2016. Influenza vaccine may not be provided to clinics who do not pre-book influenza vaccine.

NDDoH highly recommends that providers pre-book more than one brand and presentation (i.e., vials and syringes), in case of influenza vaccine supply issues. By pre-booking only one brand or presentation, providers may not receive influenza vaccine until later in the influenza season, or not at all, if their particular brand or presentation is involved in a vaccine delay, shortage or recall. Also, often in influenza seasons, certain brands or presentations are released through the allocation system sooner, so providers would receive doses earlier for this reason also. VFC and other state/federal influenza vaccine will be shipped from McKesson in multiple shipments to providers for the 2016 - 2017 influenza season.

For the 2016 - 2017 influenza season, the NDDoH will be supplying influenza vaccine to LPHUs for both VFC-eligible and insured children. LPHUs do not have to participate, but must choose one of the following options:

1. Use state-supplied influenza vaccine for **both insured children and Vaccines For Children (VFC) eligible children** (Medicaid-eligible, American Indian or Alaskan Native, uninsured or underinsured).
2. Use state-supplied influenza vaccine for **VFC-eligible children only**. With this option, it will be your responsibility to separately pre-book private influenza vaccine for insured children.

NDDoH-supplied influenza vaccine may not be administered to adults older than 18.

Vaccine will be allocated based on pre-book orders, previous influenza vaccine orders, doses administered entered into the NDIIS from the 2015 - 2016 influenza season and your clinic's size. Providers are not guaranteed to receive all the vaccine that they pre-book.

The 2016 – 2017 influenza season will again offer trivalent and quadrivalent influenza vaccines, however NDDoH will only be pre-booking quadrivalent influenza vaccines for this influenza season. Quadrivalent influenza vaccine will protect against two A strains and two B strains. The trivalent vaccine protects against two A's and one B strain. NDDoH will do its best to fill pre-booked orders with the brand and presentation pre-booked, but providers must understand that it is not guaranteed and orders may be filled with what is available.

Some suggestions for determining the amount of vaccine to prebook:

- Children, 8 years and younger, who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time, will need to receive two doses. When giving IIV3 (trivalent inactivated vaccine), IIV4 (quadrivalent inactivated vaccine) or LAIV4 (quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine), the doses should be given at least four weeks apart.
- Use the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) to determine the amount of influenza vaccine administered last year. When running a doses administered report in the NDIIS:
  - For VFC-eligible and other-state eligible patients, use “ALL VFC TYPES” for VFC TYPE and “STATE-SUPPLIED” for VACCINE TYPE.
  - For insured children at a non-universal LPHU, use “All Clients” for VFC Type and “Private” for VACCINE TYPE.
- Consider the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation for vaccination of all children 6 months – 18 years. [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html)

Contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions at 701.328.3386 or toll-free 800.472.2180.