


MEMO

TO: North Dakota Prevention Partnership Providers

FROM: Miranda Baumgartner
VFC/AFIX Coordinator 

RE: 2019 - 2020 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Pre-Book Information

DATE: January 7, 2019

For the 2019 - 2020 influenza season, all Vaccines for Children (VFC) influenza vaccine pre-booking will be done online. The online survey can be found on the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) website at www.ndhealth.gov/immunize/. Please complete the online influenza vaccine pre-book survey by **Wednesday, January 23, 2019**. 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, the 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 2019. Influenza vaccine may not be provided to clinics who do not pre-book influenza vaccine.

Local public health units (LPHUs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) will be able to pre-book influenza vaccine for un/underinsured adults (i.e., homeless population). This influenza vaccine will be available for LPHUs and FQHCs **only**. Influenza vaccine that is pre-booked by LPHUs and FQHCs for VFC eligible pediatric patients should not be used for the adult population. A different brand and presentation will be sent for use in the adult population, so it is easy to keep track of. The VFC Program is an entitlement program, so if children are eligible to receive vaccine, they must be able to receive VFC vaccine.

The 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 may receive doses earlier for this reason. Please keep in mind to only pre-book brands or presentations that staff will be educated on how to use, pre-booking several brands may allow for faster delivery, but if staff are unaware how to administer them correctly it could result in medication errors. VFC influenza vaccine will be shipped from McKesson in multiple shipments to providers for the 2019 - 2020 influenza season.

Aside from the LPHU and FQHC adult influenza vaccine program, NDDoH-supplied influenza vaccine must be used for **VFC-eligible children (Medicaid-eligible, American Indian or Alaskan Native, uninsured or underinsured) only**. **It is your clinic's responsibility to order private influenza vaccine for insured children to ensure all children in your clinic are vaccinated.** VFC influenza vaccine will be allocated to providers based on pre-book orders, previous influenza vaccine orders, doses administered entered into the NDIIS from the 2018-2019 influenza season, and your clinic's size. Providers are not guaranteed to receive all of the vaccine they pre-book.

Flumist® Recommendation:

For the 2019-2020 season, live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV or Flumist®) will most likely be recommended as an option for influenza vaccination for persons for whom it is otherwise appropriate. For the 2019-2020 season, providers may choose to administer any licensed, age appropriate influenza vaccine. Efficacy of any influenza vaccine will not be known at the time of the prebook, but if providers are planning on administering Flumist® during the upcoming influenza season, the vaccine will need to be prebooked now.

Fluzone® Age Recommendation Change:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) is expected to expand the indication for Fluzone® Quadrivalent Influenza 0.5 mL vaccine to include use in persons six months and older. Prior to this, the vaccine was only approved in persons three years of age and older. Fluzone® influenza 0.25 mL vaccine for those children six to thirty-five months will also be available. Education should be conducted with staff about both presentations being available and to administer the correct dosage. There are now three types of influenza vaccine available for persons six months and older.

Some suggestions for determining the amount of influenza vaccine to pre-book:

- Children, eight years of age and younger, who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time, will need to receive **two** doses. 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, use "ALL VFC TYPES" for VFC TYPE and "STATE-SUPPLIED" for VACCINE TYPE. Do not select "All Clients." This will show the information based on vaccine type not brand choice.
- Consider the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for vaccination of all children 6 months – 18 years. 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.