

# MEMO

**TO:** North Dakota Prevention Partnership Providers

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

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

**DATE:** February 11, 2015

For the 2015 – 2016 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 **February 18, 2015**. It is very important that pre-book orders are received prior to that 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 2015.

NDDoH was given a very short turnaround time from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), so it is imperative that providers complete this by the deadline. Influenza vaccine may not be provided to providers who do not pre-book influenza vaccine.

NDDoH-supplied influenza vaccine may be used for **VFC-eligible children (Medicaid-eligible, American Indian or Alaskan Native, uninsured or underinsured) only**. It will be allocated to providers based on pre-book orders, previous influenza vaccine orders, doses administered entered into the NDIIS from the 2014 – 2015 influenza season and your clinic's size. Providers are not guaranteed to receive all of the vaccine that they pre-book.

The 2015 – 2016 influenza season will again offer trivalent and quadrivalent influenza vaccines. 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 pre-book:

- Children, 8 years of age 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, use "ALL VFC TYPES" for VFC TYPE and "STATE-SUPPLIED" for VACCINE TYPE. Do not select "All Clients."

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- 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](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html)
- The ACIP recommends LAIV over IIV in children ages 2 – 8 years. Vaccination should not be delayed if LAIV4 is not available.

VFC and other state/federal influenza vaccine will be shipped from McKesson in multiple shipments to providers for the 2015 – 2016 influenza season. Vaccination should not be delayed if LAIV4 is not available.

The NDDoH supplies influenza vaccine to Prevention Partnership Providers for all VFC-eligible children ages 6 months – 18 years. **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 must not be administered to privately insured children or adults older than 18.

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