NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

DIVISION OF DISEASE CONTROL
2635 East Main Avenue
P.O. Box 5520
Bismarck, ND 58506-5520
www.ndhealth.gov

MEMO

TO: Prevention Partnership Providers and Local Public Health Units

FROM: Abbi Pierce, MPH
Vaccines for Children Manager

RE: 2013-2014 State-Supplied Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

DATE: August 12, 2013

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program is supplying seasonal influenza vaccine for the 2013-2014 season to private providers for use in ***only*** those children who are **Vaccines for Children (VFC) eligible.** This includes children 18 years and younger who are either Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, uninsured or underinsured. Universal local public health units (LPHUs) can administer state-supplied influenza vaccine to children who are privately insured only if they pre-booked vaccine to be administered to privately-insured children.

The 2013-2014 influenza season is the first year where a quadrivalent influenza vaccine is available. Quadrivalent influenza vaccine will protect against two A strains and two B strains. The trivalent vaccine protects against two As and one B strain. NDDoH will do its best to fill pre-booked orders for quadrivalent vaccine but provider prebooking is not guaranteed and orders may be filled with trivalent if quadrivalent is unavailable.

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 used on VFC-eligible children can later be replaced when VFC stock becomes available. However, VFC stock is not always guaranteed and providers run the risk of not having private doses repaid.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that all children, including healthy children, ages 6 months – 18 years be adequately immunized against influenza. **Therefore, state-supplied influenza vaccine may be administered to any child age 6 months – 18 years who is VFC-eligible**. Attached for your reference is the 2013-2014 Childhood Influenza Vaccine Dosage Chart. This chart is also available on the NDDoH Immunization Program website:
http://www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Documents/Providers/Forms/InfluenzaDosage.pdf

State-supplied influenza vaccine will be distributed by McKesson. Vaccine will be distributed in multiple shipments throughout the beginning of the influenza season. Providers can expect their first shipments of state-supplied influenza vaccine in mid to late August. An automated email will

be sent out to the primary and secondary vaccine contacts when an influenza vaccine order has been placed by NDDoH on behalf of that particular provider based on the prebook. Influenza vaccine cannot be ordered by providers until all influenza vaccine allocations have been sent out. Providers will be notified when ordering is available.

Important reminders about influenza vaccination:

- The 2013-2014 trivalent vaccine contains strains: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like, A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus. The quadrivalent vaccine contains one additional B/Brisbane/60/2008 strain.
- Abbreviations have been updated to support additional vaccines. IIV3 is used for trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine, IIV4 abbreviates the quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine and LAIV4 is the quadrivalent live, attenuated influenza vaccine.
- Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4, Flumist®) can be used when vaccinating healthy, nonpregnant people ages 2 – 49 years.
- **The immunization recommendations have not changed from the 2012-2013 influenza season and can be found on the enclosed influenza vaccine algorithm.**
- The minimum interval between doses of either injectable or live vaccines is four weeks.
- MMR and varicella vaccines are also live vaccines. When administering a live vaccine make sure the patient has not received another live vaccine within the past 4 weeks.
- Individuals who have experienced a less severe allergy to eggs (hives only) may receive injectable vaccine and should be supervised for at least 30 minutes following administration of each influenza dose. For individuals who have an anaphylactic allergy to eggs there is an egg-free vaccine available this year. Those individuals should consult with their healthcare provider prior to being vaccinated.
- Intradermal influenza vaccine is available for those 18 – 64 years of age.
- High dose influenza vaccine is licensed for individuals over 65 years of age.
- Recombinant (RIV3) and cell culture vaccine (ccIIV3) offer options for individuals with egg allergies. CCIIV3 is an influenza vaccine that cannot be considered egg-free but is expected to have less egg protein than other injectable influenza vaccines. RIV3 is an egg-free influenza vaccine for patients with severe or anaphylactic allergies to eggs. Both of these vaccines are only licensed for use in adults.

The 2013-2014 Vaccine Information Statements can be found on the CDC VIS website http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html. Providers are responsible for printing and supplying their own VISs. The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Act of 1986 requires that immunization providers provide a copy of the applicable VIS for each vaccine administered.

Please feel free to contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

Encs.
cc: Dr. Kent C. Martin, Medical Director
Kirby Kruger, Medical Services Chief
Tracy Miller, State Epidemiologist
Molly Howell, Immunization Program Manager