



## MEMO

**TO:** Influenza Vaccine Providers  
**FROM:** Molly Howell, MPH  
Immunization Program Manager  
**RE:** Influenza Vaccine Supply  
**DATE:** January 11, 2013

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program has been receiving reports that influenza vaccine is not available at some provider offices or in certain areas. The NDDoH would like to assess the status of influenza vaccine in the state. Please complete the following survey for your facility as soon as possible: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/XJBL88](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XJBL88).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is not reporting overall influenza vaccine supply issues. Influenza vaccine may not be available for purchase directly from vaccine manufacturers, but is currently available from various distributors. The following website shows which distributors have influenza vaccine available: [www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/](http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/).

Influenza vaccine is still available for order from the NDDoH Immunization Program for Vaccines For Children (VFC) eligible children. VFC eligible children include those who are American Indian, Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, or underinsured. Influenza vaccine is also available from the NDDoH for local public health units who pre-booked influenza vaccine for insured children.

The NDDoH encourages providers to enter flu vaccine availability on the Flu Vaccine Finder located at [www.ndflu.com](http://www.ndflu.com). Entering your facility's flu vaccine availability will assist the public in finding flu vaccine in their area.

The NDDoH also encourages providers and local public health units to communicate with each other locally to determine where flu vaccine is available and to determine the need to refer patients.

Privately purchased flu vaccine may be reallocated amongst providers if necessary. Under Section 503(c)(3)(B)(iv) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), a health care entity may sell, purchase or trade (or offer to do the same with) influenza vaccine to alleviate a shortage if there is a reasonable basis to conclude that a shortage of influenza vaccine exists or will actually occur. For information about how to document these transactions, please visit [www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/reallocating\\_influenza.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/reallocating_influenza.htm).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.