



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

KODY H. KINSLEY • Chief Deputy Secretary for Health

MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health

Division of Public Health

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Private Providers

FROM: Wendy Holmes, R.N., Immunization Branch Head *WH*

DATE: August 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Flu Vaccine Product Availability and Ordering Notification for the 2021-2022 Season

This memo is to inform Vaccines For Children (VFC) providers of the process for ordering seasonal flu vaccine for the 2021-2022 flu season and to make you aware of the available flu products from the NCIP. Please take time to carefully review this memo in full. Remember that flu vaccine provided by the NCIP is available for children, 6 months-18 years of age, who are VFC eligible. For complete NCIP vaccine coverage criteria and VFC categories, go to: <http://bit.ly/CoverageCriteria>.

Flu vaccination can be lifesaving in children to reduce the risk of flu and its potentially serious complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone 6 months and older get a seasonal flu vaccine. Getting a seasonal flu vaccine is especially important for young children because they are at increased risk of getting severe illness from flu. Flu vaccination has been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and even death in children.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to significantly impact our communities, vaccination against both influenza and COVID-19 will be critical in helping to reduce the burden associated with these illnesses, including hospitalizations, deaths, and additional strain on the healthcare system. Providers are encouraged to capitalize on opportunities for co-administration of both influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines may be administered on the same day, as well as any interval without respect to timing. Please see this link for more information on coadministration of COVID-19 vaccine: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#Coadministration>.

The "Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2021-2022 Influenza Season" has not yet been published but is forthcoming. Additional resources for the 2021-2022 flu season are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals>.

A few things are different for the 2021-2022 influenza (flu) season, including:

- The composition of flu vaccines has been updated.
- All flu vaccines will be quadrivalent (four component), meaning designed to protect against four different flu viruses.
- Licensure on one flu vaccine has changed. Flucelvax Quadrivalent is now approved for people 2 years and older.
- Flu vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time.
- More detailed guidance about the recommended timing of flu vaccination for some groups of people is forthcoming.
- Guidance concerning contraindications and precautions for the use of two flu vaccines – Flucelvax Quadrivalent and Flublok Quadrivalent – were updated. Please see the package insert for the current prescribing information. Additional contraindication information is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>.

Please see CDC's "Frequently Asked Influenza (Flu) Questions: 2021-2022 Season" available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2021-2022.htm> for more information.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

LOCATION: 5601 Six Forks Road, Building 2, Raleigh, NC 27609
MAILING ADDRESS: 1917 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1917
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-707-5550 • FAX: 919-870-4824

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Available vaccines and anticipated timing of flu vaccine shipping:

During the 2021-2022 flu season, the NCIP will supply several brands of flu vaccine in various presentations. All flu products provided by the NCIP will be **quadrivalent**. The quadrivalent flu vaccine is designed to protect against four different flu viruses, two flu A and two flu B viruses. Regarding the timing of flu vaccine distribution, flu vaccine will be shipped separately from all other routine NCIP vaccines. CDC's centralized distribution process involves several steps, which are different from the steps that precede the delivery of private-ordered flu vaccine, which often results in private orders arriving before state vaccine. To address this issue and improve vaccine coverage, CDC has approved the two-way or bidirectional borrowing policy for use again for this flu season.

Vaccine Ordering:

Providers should ensure orders are sufficient to meet the needs of their Vaccines For Children (VFC) patients and assess their ability to store the vaccines safely. Consider a vaccine ordering plan that allows for the use of smaller amounts in combination with different products and presentations early in the season, until more vaccine becomes available. Please plan accordingly and order enough private stock vaccine to vaccinate your patients who are not eligible for state-supplied/VFC doses.

Flu products available through NCIP in the 2021-2022 flu season:

Vaccine Type	Trade Name	Dose Size	NDC	Presentation	Age Group Covered	Pres-free or Preservative-containing
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Afluria® (Seqirus)	0.25 mL	33332-0221-20	0.25 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children 6 - 35 mos. of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	FluLaval® (GlaxoSmithKline)	0.5 mL	19515-0818-52	0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Fluarix® (GlaxoSmithKline)	0.5 mL	58160-0887-52	0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)	0.5 mL	49281-0421-50	0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)	0.5 mL	49281-0421-10	0.5 mL single-dose vials 10 pack	VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)	5 mL	49281-0635-15	5 mL multi-dose vial, one 10 dose vial	VFC children 6 mos. - 18 years of age	Preservative-containing
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Flucelvax® (Seqirus)	0.5 mL	70461-0321-03	0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children 2 - 18 years of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Flucelvax® (Seqirus)	5 mL	70461-0421-10	5 mL multi-dose vial, one 10 dose vial	VFC children 2 - 18 years of age	Preservative-containing
Quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4)	FluMist® (AstraZeneca)	0.2 mL	66019-0308-10	Nasal sprayers	VFC children 2 - 18 years of age	Preservative-free

Borrowing and Replacement:

Providers will be allowed to use the two-way borrowing policy with seasonal flu vaccine again this year in order to prevent missed opportunities for both VFC-eligible and fully insured children. Under this policy, providers may use VFC vaccine to vaccinate insured children or privately purchased vaccine to vaccinate VFC-eligible children **in the event there is a delay in shipment of either stock**. The amount of **flu vaccine** that can be borrowed is not limited to a certain amount, **however**, as with other VFC vaccine products, the borrowing policy does not alleviate a provider's responsibility to appropriately order, in a timely manner, enough private flu vaccine to vaccinate insured children within the practice.

Please note: all doses to be replaced must be documented on the NCIP borrowing and replacement report form every time borrowing occurs. As a reminder, the process for borrowing/replacing changed last year and no longer requires providers to call the Help Desk each time borrowing occurs or to submit the report to the Immunization Branch's central office. When borrowing occurs, doses should be replaced with the same product type. For example, private quadrivalent vaccine(s) will be replaced with VFC quadrivalent vaccine(s) only, which cover the same age groups. If a provider uses private vaccine for a 2-year-old patient, it should be replaced with a VFC vaccine indicated for children 2 years of age. The brand does not have to be replaced with the same brand if the products have the same administration indications. The NCIP borrowing report required by the CDC is located on the NCIP website at: <http://bit.ly/BorrowingForm>.

Key Points:

- **North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) users will place vaccine orders directly through the NCIR.**
- **Providers should place orders throughout the flu season to replenish vaccine quantities as needed.**
- **Product substitutions may occur due to availability of brands and presentations during the flu season.**
- **Maintaining the cold chain is the first step in vaccine inventory management.**
- **All provider staff that might accept vaccine deliveries should be trained to immediately notify the vaccine coordinator or back-up coordinator when deliveries arrive.**
- **Vaccines must always be immediately checked and stored properly upon arrival.**
- **Two-way or bidirectional borrowing of flu vaccine is allowed**
- **All 2020-2021 seasonal flu vaccine(s) have expired as of June 30, 2021. Please remove any expired vaccine from the refrigerator and contact the Immunization Branch for assistance with transfers of expired vaccine.**

CDC has released Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic (available here: <https://bit.ly/PandemicGuidance>). This guidance is intended to help immunization providers in a variety of clinical and alternative settings with the safe administration of vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Immunization Branch Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247, option 2.

cc: SMT, Regional Immunization Staff, CO, Vaccine Manufacturers, Elizabeth Hudgins, Frank Skwara, Terri Pennington, Peter Graber, Harita Patel, Taryn Edwards, Ann Nichols