



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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September 1, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Providers

FROM: Carrie Blanchard, PharmD, MPH
Interim Immunization Director

SUBJECT: Flu Vaccine Product Availability and Ordering 2022-2023

Key Points:

- North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) users should place vaccine orders directly through NCIR.
- Providers should place orders throughout the flu season to replenish supply, 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.
- All 2021-2022 seasonal flu vaccine(s) have expired as of June 30, 2022. Please remove any expired vaccine from the refrigerator and contact the Immunization Branch for assistance with transfers of expired vaccine.

This memo is to inform Vaccines For Children (VFC) providers of the process for ordering seasonal flu vaccine for the 2022-2023 flu season and highlight available flu products from the North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP). Please take time to carefully review this memo completely. 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, see the [Coverage Criteria here](#).

Flu vaccination reduces the risk of contracting the flu and its potentially serious complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone 6 months and older get a seasonal flu vaccine each year. This is especially important for young children because they are at increased risk of severe illness.

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older get a seasonal flu vaccine each year. This is especially important for young children because they are at increased risk of severe illness.

In accordance with general best practices:

Routine administration of all age-appropriate doses of vaccines simultaneously is recommended for children, adolescents, and adults without specific contraindications.

- Providers are encouraged to capitalize on opportunities for co-administration of both influenza and COVID-19 vaccines.
- Children should be vaccinated against flu as soon as doses become available.
- IIV4s and RIV4 may be administered concurrently or sequentially with other vaccines.
- Providers should refer to [current CDC/ACIP recommendations and guidance for the use of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines](#).
- Injectable vaccines given simultaneously should be administered at separate anatomic sites.
- LAIV4 may be administered simultaneously with other vaccines. If not given simultaneously, then ≥ 4 weeks should pass between administration of LAIV4 and another live vaccine.
- Immunogenicity and safety of simultaneous or sequential administration of two vaccines containing non-aluminum adjuvants has not yet been evaluated.

Available vaccines and anticipated shipping

During the 2022-2023 flu season, the NCIP will supply several brands of flu vaccine in various presentations. Flu vaccine will be shipped separately from all other routine NCIP and COVID vaccines. Available vaccines for the 2022-2023 flu season include quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine [IIV4], recombinant influenza vaccine [RIV4], or live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4). **There is no preferential recommendation for people younger than 65 years.** [Click here](#) for CDC's full recommendations on the use of flu vaccines during 2022-2023.

It is important to remember that the public distribution system is set up differently than the private distribution system. Therefore, even if a manufacturer ships doses to a private provider and to one of the CDC distribution centers on the same day, it is not possible for the provider to receive private and public doses on the same day. The majority of influenza vaccines will arrive at CDC's centralized distributor in waves as they have in the past. The first waves will begin in August and the final waves will reach the depots in October and beyond.

Vaccine Ordering and Coverage Criteria

Providers should ensure orders meet the needs of their VFC patients and consider 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 order enough private stock vaccine for your patients who are not eligible for state-supplied/VFC doses.

Any uninsured pregnant persons, 19 years and older, being served by a Local Health Department (LHD), Rural Health Center (RHC), or Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in any capacity and persons of any age enrolled in the "Be Smart Family Planning Program" receiving services at LHDs, RHCs, or FQHCs are also eligible to receive VFC flu vaccine. **The vaccine brands that may be used for these populations are highlighted in blue in the table below.**

The following is a list of flu vaccines available through the NCIP for the 2022-2023 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	0.5 mL	33332-0322-03	0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children, 36 mos. – 18 years of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	FluLaval® GlaxoSmithKline	0.5 mL	19515-0808-52	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	58160-0890-52	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	49281-0422-50	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	49281-0422-10	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	0.25 mL or 0.5 mL	49281-0637-15	Multi-dose vial containing 5.0 mL each	VFC children, 6 mos. - 18 years of age	Preservative-containing
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Flucelvax® Seqirus	0.5 mL	70461-0322-03	0.5 mL prefilled syringes 10 pack	VFC children, 6 mos. - 18 years of age	Preservative-free
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)	Flucelvax® Seqirus	0.5 mL	70461-0422-10	Multi-dose vial containing 5.0 mL each	VFC children, 6 mos. - 18 years of age	Preservative-containing
Quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4)	FluMist® AstraZeneca	0.2 mL	66019-0309-10	Nasal sprayers	VFC children, 2 - 18 years of age	Preservative-free

Borrowing and Replacement

Borrowing is approved when VFC vaccine stock is not yet available. Provider locations may use private stock vaccine for VFC-eligible children and replace it when VFC vaccine becomes available. This one-directional borrowing is unique to seasonal influenza vaccine. Bi-directional borrowing is not permitted for seasonal flu vaccine this year.

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, providers are no longer required to call the Help Desk or submit the report to the Immunization Branch's central office each time borrowing occurs. Please follow the steps outlined on page 7 in the [NCIR Quick Reference Guide](#) to ensure inventory is replaced appropriately in NCIR.

When borrowing occurs, doses should be replaced with the same product type. For example, private quadrivalent vaccine(s) must be replaced only with VFC quadrivalent vaccine(s), 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 for children 2 years of age. The brand does not matter so long as the products have the same administration indications. See the [NCIP borrowing report](#) required by CDC.

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

Sincerely,

Carrie Blanchard, PharmD, MPH
Interim Immunization Director

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