

STATE OF NEVADA

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Dear VFC Provider:

Influenza Season is upon us once again! The Nevada State Immunization Program is ready to release the ordering forms for general-use VFC flu vaccine. The process for ordering influenza vaccine has not changed; VFC-enrolled clinics may order more flu vaccine at any time and must report inventory and usage numbers monthly. You will find the forms attached to your original e-mail message or you can download/print them from our website:

[http://dphh.nv.gov/Programs/VFC/dta/Forms/Vaccines for Children \(VFC\) Program - Forms/](http://dphh.nv.gov/Programs/VFC/dta/Forms/Vaccines_for_Children_(VFC)_Program_-_Forms/).

The Nevada VFC Program will be offering 5 presentations of quadrivalent flu vaccine for use among VFC-eligible children:

- Fluarix-QUAD 36mos + 10-pack pre-filled syringes
- FluMist-QUAD 2-49 years 10-pack single dose sprayer
- Fluzone-QUAD 6-35 months 10-pack pre-filled syringes
- Fluzone-QUAD 36mos + 10-pack pre-filled syringes
- Fluzone-QUAD 6mos + 10-dose vial (**limited quantity, will only be ordered for rural or very small clinics**)

**Please keep in mind that the Nevada VFC Program will continue to be allocated flu vaccine at the federal warehouse throughout the month of September. Although we are releasing the ordering forms now, we ask that for the next few weeks you order flu vaccine in small increments more frequently (e.g., order 50-100 doses weekly). Higher volume ordering will be available by mid-October.**

Please also find attached to this letter the “Influenza vaccine dosing algorithm for children aged 6 months – 8 years...2015-16 influenza season.” The algorithm explains the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) current guidance on whether or not a child needs 1 or 2 doses of an influenza vaccine this season. We are also using this letter to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about influenza vaccine distribution in the United States (read on!).

**1. Why can't CDC control the distribution of influenza vaccine so that providers seeing priority patients receive their orders first?**

Influenza vaccine production and distribution in the US are primarily private sector endeavors. CDC does not have the authority, resources or relationships with providers necessary to carry out or control vaccine distribution. CDC encourages influenza vaccine manufacturers and distributors to use a distribution strategy that provides vaccine to all provider types in a comparable timeframe. Such an approach allows the broadest possible access for vaccine throughout the season and is consistent with national data that indicate adults in the United States receive influenza vaccine in a wide variety of venues, including private provider offices, worksites, clinics, hospitals, health departments, retail settings, and senior centers. While there is a relationship between age or health status and the location in which vaccines are received, the data demonstrate that all of these venues serve at least some elderly or high risk patients.

**2. It seems that my vaccines come in multiple shipments during the season, which makes planning difficult. Why can't vaccine be ready and delivered prior to the beginning of the vaccination season?**

The timing of the completion of influenza vaccine production varies from year to year and depends upon on a number of factors, including the strains chosen for inclusion in the vaccine. Even in a year in which each step of production goes well, since influenza vaccine manufacturers are currently producing vaccine at or near full capacity, it isn't possible for all of the doses to be produced and distributed before the beginning of the vaccination season. To allow as many providers as possible to begin vaccinating early in the season, CDC encourages manufacturers and distributors to use a distribution strategy in which partial shipments are used to allow as many providers as possible to begin vaccination activities early in the vaccination season. Ideally, the intervals between shipments are short so that each provider has a continuous supply and can continue vaccinating patients without interruption.

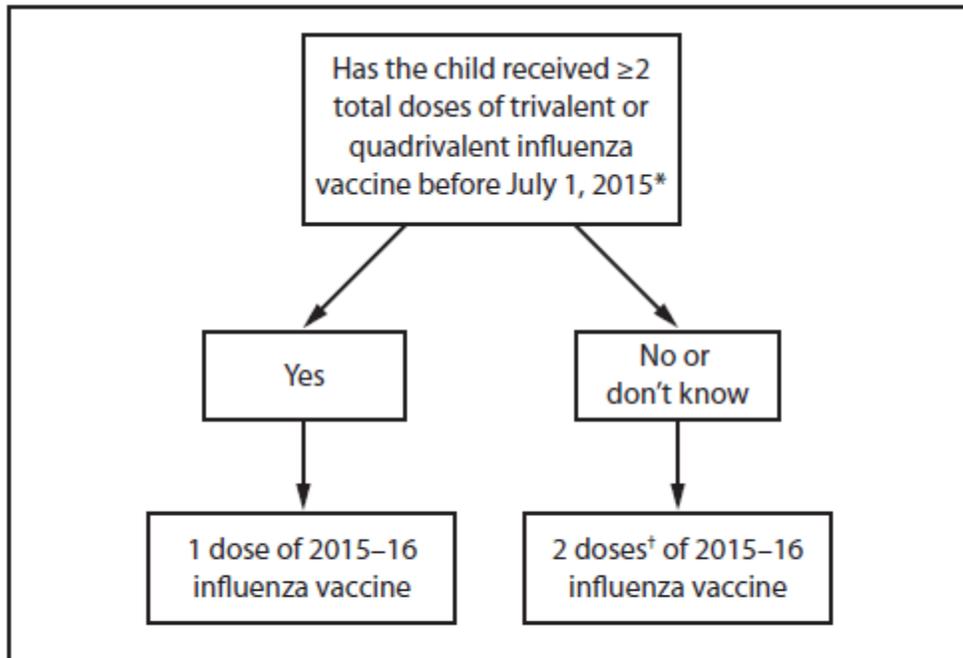
**3. Why can't influenza vaccine manufacturers and distributors always provide reliable information about when vaccine shipments are scheduled?**

Manufacturers say that, because of the unpredictable nature and complexity of biologics production, they cannot always anticipate when vaccine lots will be completed and released. Distributors must rely on the manufacturers to provide them with this information. Both manufacturers and distributors are reluctant to project very far into the future about when shipments will be made because they do not want to create unrealistic expectations among customers.

**4. Why is there so much variation in when different vaccination providers receive their vaccine?**

The primary reason for the variation in timing is that different types of vaccine providers receive their vaccine from different sources. A provider may order influenza vaccine (1) directly from the manufacturer; (2) from a distributor, who is a customer of the manufacturer; or (3) from a secondary distributor, from whom the provider also receives other medical products. Some of these routes of distribution are more direct than others, which can affect the timing of vaccine delivery.

**FIGURE 1. Influenza vaccine dosing algorithm for children aged 6 months through 8 years — Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2015–16 influenza season**



\* The two doses need not have been received during the same season or consecutive seasons.

† Doses should be administered ≥4 weeks apart.