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TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Local Health Departments (LHDs),
Rural Health Centers (RHCs), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

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

DATE: August 9, 2017

SUBJECT: Influenza Vaccine Ordering for the 2017-2018 Season

The purpose of this memo is to inform LHDs, RHCs, and FQHCs of the process for ordering vaccine for the 2017-2018 influenza season and to make you aware of the available influenza products from the NCIP. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends annual flu vaccination for everyone 6 months and older who do not have contraindications and extends the recommendation that Flumist Quadrivalent (LAIV) should not be used for the 2017-18 flu season.

North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) users will place vaccine orders through the NCIR. Providers should assess your anticipated vaccine needs for the upcoming flu season based on your current enrolled Vaccines For Children (VFC) population and ability to store the vaccines safely. We will attempt to fulfill orders in full if quantities are sufficient. However, providers must place subsequent orders to replenish vaccine inventories throughout the flu season if initial orders are not filled in full.

As in previous seasons, the NCIP cannot guarantee that all influenza products and presentations will be available for distribution on the first day of the 2017-2018 influenza season. Providers should consider a vaccination plan that allows for the use of smaller amounts and different products and presentations of vaccine early in the season, until more vaccine becomes available. If you are willing to use a variety of products and presentations, you should select those products in your initial order. Product substitutions may occur by NCIP based on the availability of vaccine. When possible, substitutions will be made between similar products with the same presentation. We suggest that you not schedule large mass vaccination influenza clinics early in the flu season until you have a sufficient supply on hand.

Eligibility for NCIP Influenza Vaccines

Remember that influenza vaccine provided by the NCIP is only available for children, 6 months through 18 years of age, who are eligible for the VFC program and certain adults.

Any non-Medicaid, uninsured patient, 19 years and older, who is pregnant during the influenza season, and who is being served by a LHD, RHC, or FQHC in any capacity, may receive NCIP supplied influenza vaccine at this location. Adult women with Medicaid are considered insured for this purpose, and therefore are not eligible for NCIP vaccine.

Females enrolled in the Be Smart family planning program receiving services at LHDs, RHCs, or FQHCs are also eligible for NCIP influenza vaccine.

Please note that NCIP supplied influenza vaccine will not be expanded universally for non-VFC eligible children, due to federal funding. Therefore, you must order private purchase influenza vaccine if you plan to vaccinate insured individuals, regardless of their age. For complete NCIP vaccine coverage criteria and VFC categories, go to: <http://bit.ly/CoverageCriteria>.

2017-2018 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Product Availability from NCIP

During the 2017-2018 influenza season, the NCIP intends to offer several brands of influenza vaccine in various presentations. All influenza products provided by the NCIP will be **quadrivalent**.

Influenza products available through NCIP in the 2017-2018 influenza season:

Presentation	NCIP Age Administration Criteria	Products
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4), Preservative-containing 5 mL multi-dose vial 0.25 mL dose for persons aged 6 through 35 mos. 0.5 mL dose for persons aged 36 mos. through 18 yrs.	VFC children 6 months through 18 years of age	Fluzone® (sanofi Pasteur)
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4), Preservative-free 0.5mL prefilled syringes - 10 doses per pack	VFC children 6 months through 18 years of age	FluLaval® (GlaxoSmithKline)
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4), Preservative -free 0.5mL single dose vial - 10 doses per pack	VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4), Preservative-free 0.5mL prefilled syringes - 10 doses per pack	VFC children 36 months through 18 years of age	*Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) Fluarix® (GlaxoSmithKline)
Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4), Preservative-free 0.25mL prefilled syringes - 10 doses per pack	VFC children 6 months through 35 months of age	Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)
Quadrivalent cell culture-based inactivated influenza vaccine (ccIIV4), Preservative-free 0.5mL prefilled syringes – 10 doses per pack	VFC children 4 years through 18 years of age	Flucelvax® (Seqirus)

*LHDs/RHCs/FQHCs may administer this vaccine to uninsured pregnant women of any age. See coverage details above.

For seasonal influenza vaccine, providers may use the one way borrowing policy and use private stock seasonal influenza vaccine to vaccinate VFC eligible children if VFC influenza is not yet available. Those private stock doses administered to VFC eligible children can later be replaced when VFC stock becomes available. All borrowing, must be documented on the VFC vaccine borrowing report located on the NCIP website at: <http://bit.ly/BorrowingForm>. Please note: borrowing and replacement is allowed only with vaccines of the same type. For example, if providers use private quadrivalent vaccine, it should be replaced with VFC quadrivalent vaccine.

Reminder: As of June 30, 2017, all influenza vaccines for prior seasons will have expired. Providers who have expired influenza vaccine on hand must transfer all expired inventory to McKesson upon receipt of this memo in accordance with the current vaccine return policy. A cheat sheet is available on our website at: <http://bit.ly/WastedVaccine>.

Remember, Federal guidelines require all providers to provide a relevant Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) prior to giving the influenza vaccine every time an influenza vaccination is given regardless of whether it is given by a public health clinic or private provider regardless of how the vaccine was purchased and regardless of the age of the recipient. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced flu VISs are no longer updated every year. The VIS edition date for inactivated influenza vaccine is dated 8/7/2015 and should be used for the current flu season. The VISs for each influenza vaccine are located and may be viewed on the CDC web site at: <http://bit.ly/FluVIS>.

Thank you for your cooperation with these procedures. If you need additional influenza vaccine information or assistance please contact the Immunization Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247, and press option 6.