



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

September 18, 2009

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

**Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines
Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2009**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Immunization Program (NIP) released the MMWR Weekly: July 30, 2009 / July 31, 2009 / 58(RR08);1-52 / *Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2009*. This MMWR article is available at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5808a1.htm?s_cid=rr5808a1_e.

This report updates the 2008 recommendations by the CDC's ACIP regarding the use of influenza vaccine for the prevention and control of seasonal influenza. Information on vaccination issues related to the recently identified novel influenza H1N1 virus will be published later in 2009. To access avian and pandemic flu updates and information, go to the U.S. Government H1N1 website at <http://www.flu.gov/> or contact the Florida Flu Information Line at (877) 352-3581.

The 2009 seasonal influenza recommendations include new and updated information.

- 1) A recommendation that annual vaccination be administered to all children aged 6 months–18 years for the 2009-10 influenza season;
- 2) A recommendation that vaccines containing the 2009–10 trivalent vaccine virus strains A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like, A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like antigens be used; and
- 3) A notice that recommendations for influenza diagnosis and antiviral use will be published before the start of the 2009-10 influenza season. Vaccination efforts should begin as soon as vaccine is available and continue through the influenza season.

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) for Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) are information sheets produced by the CDC that explain to vaccine recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives both the benefits and risks of a vaccine. Federal law requires that providers hand out the VISs before they give each dose of certain vaccinations. You may find all available VISs on the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm> or the Immunization Action Coalition website at www.immunize.org/VIS.

- **Seasonal influenza.** The 2009-10 TIV and LAIV VISs are now available at the following websites:

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-flu.pdf
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-flulive.pdf

- **H1N1 VIS planned.** A VIS for a monovalent H1N1 influenza vaccine is in draft form, and will be published if or when such a vaccine is made available. This VIS can't be completed until a vaccine exists and information about contraindications, adverse events, etc. is available.

VFC Influenza Vaccine Update

The Bureau of Immunization (BOI) has received about 20% of its total FluMist vaccine order. McKesson Specialty began distribution of these doses to public and private providers starting the week of September 7. However, since Monday, September 7 was a holiday, McKesson Specialty may have delayed some vaccine shipments until the week of September 14.

The BOI has not received any supply of the seasonal flu vaccine (TIV), but has been told by the CDC that some amount (not sure how much or what percentage) of our total order should be available for ordering during the week of September 7. The amount of seasonal flu vaccine we receive will determine the amount we will be able to distribute to each provider. As the vaccine becomes available, providers that pre-booked the vaccine will receive an initial partial shipment early in the vaccination season, followed by additional shipments later in the season.

This year, the VFC Program will supply preservative-free influenza vaccine to our 2,000 participating public and private providers. The vaccine is available in three formulations:

- 0.25 ml dose, preservative-free, for VFC-eligible children age 6-35 months
- 0.50 ml dose, preservative free, for VFC-eligible children 36 months to 18 years of age
- Live, intranasal (FluMist ®), for VFC-eligible children 2 years to 18 years of age

If you have questions concerning recommendations for the vaccine, contact Laura Rutledge, R.N., BOI, at (850) 245-4342. For information regarding the VFC flu vaccine supply, contact your VFC Program representative at (800) 483-2543.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Charles H. Alexander, Chief
Bureau of Immunization
Division of Disease Control
Florida Department of Health

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cc: Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator, Bureau of Immunization
Bureau of Immunization Field Staff