

Vaccines For Children (VFC) Flu Vaccine Q & A

When will my VFC flu vaccine arrive?

A record amount of flu vaccine has been received and distributed to providers this season. Most providers have received their orders by now and some are sending requests for additional doses. If you need to find out about your order or would like to order more, please send an email, or call your health educator at 971-673-0300.

Is there still VFC flu vaccine available for order?

Yes, at this point we still have some flu vaccines available for VFC providers. We are completely out of Flumist® but are accepting orders for Fluzone® (in several presentations). To check on the formulations, availability, and to place your order, email or call your health educator at 971-673-0300.

My Flumist® will expire shortly, what should I do?

If you find that some of your VFC doses will expire before you can use them, they can be replaced by the manufacturer. Please follow the instructions below very carefully to request replacement of VFC doses:

- 1) Complete the attached Replacement Request Form and fax a copy to McKesson (800-371-3963).
- 1) Place expiring/expired FluMist® (in multiples of 10) in an appropriate mailing container to prevent leakage. FluMist® doses about to expire and being sent for replacement does not have to be returned cold.
- 2) Place copy of the Replacement Request Form in the mailing container with the FluMist®. Note: FluMist® returned without the form will not be replaced.
- 3) Fax a copy of the completed form to Nasreen Abdullah, Oregon VFC, 971-673-0278.
- 4) Within 3 business days from receipt of request and verification of information, Federal Express will pick up the boxed FluMist® from your location. FedEx will affix a preprinted, prepaid label and ship the package to McKesson at no charge to you.

- 5) Upon receipt and verification of the expiring/expired doses with the replacement request form, replacement doses will be shipped at no charge to you.

Requests for replacement doses must be made no sooner than 15 days prior to the expiration date stamped on the sprayer and no later than until January 30, 2009.

Replacement Request Rounding: All requests for replacement doses must be in multiples of 10 units of product. Requests not in multiples of 10 will be rounded down to the nearest multiple of 10. This means if you are requesting replacement for 17 doses, your order will be rounded DOWN to 10.

There will be no credit for doses returned in excess of those shipped for replacement. If you have any questions, contact Nasreen Abdullah, Oregon VFC Program, at 971-673-0298, or email her at nasreen.abdullah@state.or.us

Please note, this program does not apply to Oregon's "Flu Pool" or "Flu Preparedness" vaccine supply. For information on replacement of those doses, please contact Lisa Moffatt at 971-673-0300.

I have excess VFC and/or Private flu vaccine. What should I do with the excess flu vaccine?

For excess **VFC flu vaccine**, please inform your health educator immediately so the vaccine can be transferred to a site where it is needed and can be used.

For excess **private flu vaccine**, as we have done in the last three years, we will coordinate brokering of flu vaccine supplies. Flu vaccine brokering is a statewide community effort to connect those in need with those who can supply. In order for brokering to be successful, continued vigilance about flu vaccine supplies in your county is very important. We appreciate that as much as possible, what happens locally to redistribute flu vaccine is best done by you—with the State Immunization Program's help when necessary.

Here is the process we will follow:

1. Clinics wanting to purchase or to sell flu vaccine will be referred to their local health departments first.
2. Local health departments (LHD) attempt to connect local buyers and sellers.
3. In the event the LHD is unable to broker deals locally, they may contact the State Immunization Program and request that those buyers and/or sellers be added to a statewide brokering list. To refer, ask callers to phone/email us, or take all the information (doses, presentations, contact names and numbers, etc.) and pass it along to our staff.

Beginning immediately, please contact Nasreen Abdullah with all flu vaccine transfer and brokering issues at 971-673-0298 or nasreen.abdullah@state.or.us

Can I use my private stock to immunize VFC eligible children, and charge Medicaid or the child's parents?

No – it is a violation of Federal law to seek payment for vaccines you give to VFC eligible children.

Can I use my private stock to immunize VFC eligible children, and use the VFC supply to restock once it arrives?

Yes, but please do so knowing that we cannot guarantee the VFC supply will arrive on any particular schedule, nor can the program reimburse you for the cost of your private flu vaccine.

How many doses of flu vaccine have been distributed this season so far?

So far we have distributed just shy of 100,000 doses this season for VFC children, plus another 60,000 doses for use in preparedness exercises and other special outreach to communities that are often hard to reach. That's a 12% increase over last season.

How do you make distribution decisions?

We ask providers to prebook their flu vaccine for VFC eligible children early each spring. This year, as in past years, vaccine has been distributed mostly on a first come-first served basis. This means that the providers who got their orders in before our deadline will get their orders fulfilled first. We will be using a new distribution method next year, hoping to provide a more equitable process.

What is the eligibility criteria for VFC Influenza Vaccine?

All children and adolescents ages 6 months through 18 years.

VFC Eligible Patients and Flu Vaccine Presentations				
	6 through 23 months	24 through 35 months	36 through 59 months	5 years through 18 years
FluMist® Prefilled Nasal Spray Syringes [⚙]		Approved ¹	Approved ¹	Approved
Fluzone® .25mL Prefilled Syringe [⚙]	Approved	Approved		
Fluzone® .50mL Single Dose Vial or Prefilled Syringe [⚙]			Supply is limited, please use only in this age group if possible	Very limited availability
Fluzone® 5.0mL Multidose Vial [⚡]	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved
[⚙] Thimerosal Concentration/Mercury mcg/0.5mL: 0/0 [⚡] Thimerosal Concentration/Mercury mcg/0.5mL: .01%/25				

1. Some believe that the live, attenuated influenza vaccine (FluMist®) is preferred for eligible children 2–4 years of age, because in a randomized,

double-blind clinical trial it was found to be more effective than inactivated vaccine in the prevention of culture-positive influenza A illness. Belshe RB, Edwards KM, Vesikari T, et al. Live attenuated versus inactivated influenza vaccine in infants and young children. *N Engl J Med.* 2007;356:685–96

What are the new ACIP Influenza Vaccine recommendations?

Based on ACIP recommendations issued in the August 8, 2008, MMWR:

- Beginning with the 2008–09 influenza season, all children 5–18 years of age should receive an annual influenza vaccine.
- Vaccinate all healthy persons 2–49 years of age with TIV or LAIV (FluMist®)
- Annual vaccination of all children 6 months–4 years (59 months) of age should continue to be a primary focus of vaccination efforts.
- All children ≥ 6 months but < 9 years of age who have not previously received any influenza vaccine should receive 2 doses of vaccine the first year they are vaccinated. Those who receive TIV should have these 2 doses separated by ≥ 4 weeks.
- All children ≥ 6 months but < 9 years of age who receive only 1 dose in their 1st year of influenza vaccine should receive 2 doses the following year; then a single annual dose thereafter.

FluMist® Replacement Program for Oregon VFC Vaccine

RETURN REQUEST

Provider Name:		Total No. of Boxes:	
Address:		Oregon VFC Pin #:	
City, State, Zip:		Contact Phone #:	
Account # (For McKesson Use Only):		Contact Name:	

Enclose a copy of this Form with the return shipment. Return Shipments without this Form will not be processed.

<i>Lot #</i>		<i>NDC #</i>		Expiration Date		<i># of Doses</i>	In multiples of 10
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Instructions:

1. Complete the above with required information
2. Fax completed form to the McKesson Customer Service at Fax # [800-371-3963](tel:800-371-3963)
3. Place a copy of the completed form in the box with the product to be returned. Product returned without form will not be processed.
4. Fax a copy of the completed form to Nasreen Abdullah, Oregon VFC, 971-673-0278.
5. A McKesson Customer Service Representative will schedule a pick up with FedEx Ground.
6. Expired FluMist® should be packaged to assure no leakage of product; product does not need to be returned cold.
7. If your product has not been picked up within 72 hours, please contact Nasreen Abdullah at the Oregon VFC Program: 971-673-0300 or Nasreen.Abdullah@state.or.us

For McKesson Customer Service Use ONLY:

RA #:	Replacement Order No:	FedEx Confirmation#:
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