



Immunization Program Update

Please distribute to each Physician, NP, PA and Vaccine Coordinator in your office

Subject: State Supplied Seasonal Flu Vaccine Order

From: Alice Simmons, RN, Nursing Supervisor
Contact Person: Sandy Abernathy, RN, Immunization Clinic
Date: August 23, 2011

Phone: 676-4593
Pages: 3

SEASONAL FLU VACCINE for the 2011-2012 INFLUENZA SEASON

All children 6 months of age up to the 19th birthday are eligible to receive state-supplied influenza vaccine. The 2011-2012 seasonal influenza vaccine virus strains are identical to those contained in the 2010-2011 vaccine. Patients who received flu vaccine last year should be immunized again this year. Immunity to influenza viruses declines over time and may be too low to provide protection after a year.

- Children aged **6 months through 8 years** who received at least one dose of last year's 2010-2011 seasonal vaccine need only 1 dose of the 2011-2012 seasonal influenza vaccine.
- Children aged **6 months through 8 years** who did not receive or for whom it is uncertain whether they received the 2010-2011 seasonal vaccine should receive 2 doses of the 2011-2012 seasonal influenza vaccine.
- Children aged **9 through 18 years** should receive 1 dose of the 2011-2012 seasonal flu vaccine

ELIGIBLE GROUP	FORMULATION	DOSAGE
Children 6-35 months	Sanofi Pasteur FLUZONE PF Preservative free, pre-filled syringes	0.25 mL IM Give a 2 nd dose ≥ 4 weeks after 1 st dose if patient did NOT receive <u>at</u> <u>least one dose</u> of 2010-2011 seasonal flu vaccine.
Children 24 months up to the 19 th birthday	MedImmune FLUMIST Preservative free, intranasal spray	0.2 mL 0.1 mL per nostril Give a 2 nd dose ≥ 4 weeks after 1 st dose if patient is less than 9 years of age and did NOT receive <u>at least</u> <u>one dose</u> of 2010-2011 seasonal flu vaccine.
Children 36 months up to the 19 th birthday	Sanofi Pasteur FLUZONE Multi-dose vial (contains preservative)	0.5 mL IM Give a 2 nd dose ≥ 4 weeks after 1 st dose if patient is less than 9 years of age and did NOT receive <u>at least</u> <u>one dose</u> of 2010-2011 seasonal flu vaccine.
Adolescents less than 19 years of age who are pregnant	Novartis FLUVIRIN Preservative free, prefilled syringe	0.5 mL IM Single dose

ORDERING GUIDANCE – IMPORTANT CHANGES:

We expect to have enough flu vaccine (all types) this season to meet every provider's needs so it is not necessary to submit a request or forecast usage for the entire season. Initially the WCHD allocations may be limited. Please be patient.

We will notify you by email when allocations become available and the quantity you may order. If the order is not placed within 7 days, we will pass that quantity on to another practice for ordering.

- ◆ All flu vaccine orders will be placed online in the Child Profile ordering module.
- ◆ To order flu vaccine, select the "State Supplied Flu 2011-2012" from the "Order set" dropdown.
- ◆ Once your order set is selected, the vaccines will display on the order screen.
- ◆ Fax the Provider Request for Seasonal Influenza Vaccine 2011-2012 to WCHD.
- ◆ Include your order number at the bottom left of the paper order form.
- ◆ Flu vaccine orders are separate from the EOQ assigned schedule and may be submitted any time.
- ◆ Orders will be reviewed (may be adjusted) and shipped directly to your practice.
- ◆ As the quantity of flu vaccine increases, you will be instructed to submit flu vaccine requests every 2 to 4 weeks as needed for your practice.
- ◆ As always, fax the packing slip to WCHD upon arrival of the vaccine.
- ◆ The Centers for Disease Control advises providers to begin immunizing children against influenza as soon as they receive vaccine.

Thimerosal Law Reminder:

Under Washington state law, children younger than 3 and pregnant women of any age must be vaccinated with preservative free formulation.

Mercury limits law temporarily suspended:

- Secretary of Health Mary Selecky extended the temporary suspension of Washington's limit on the amount of mercury (thimerosal) in **influenza multidose vials** allowed for pregnant women and children less than 3 years old for the 2011-12 season.
- The law can be suspended when there is a shortage of vaccine, which continues to be the case for certain groups of people during the upcoming flu season.
- The tip cap of the 2011-2012 single dose, pre-filled syringes of thimerosal-free flu vaccine may contain trace amounts of natural rubber latex. **This means that children under three and pregnant women who have or may have latex allergies may be advised by their health care provider to not get the thimerosal-free single dose syringes.**
- If a health care provider is concerned about patients in these groups having an allergic reaction to latex, this suspension allows providers and patients the opportunity to use other types of flu vaccine.

Notification requirements:

- When the mercury limits are suspended the law requires that certain groups be told they are getting a vaccine containing more mercury than is usually permitted. This notification requirement applies to pregnant or lactating women and parents or guardians of children under the age of 18 getting the vaccine. There is no single notification method required; the Department of Health has developed a sample notification form to help you with this. This and other related documents are available online (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/providers/flu-thimerosal.htm>).

Seasonal Flu Vaccine Information Statements (VIS):

Interim 2011-12 VIS forms dated July 26, 2011, are now available on the CDC Web site:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-flu.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-flulive.pdf>

An inactivated flu VIS "Large Print" edition is also available. The Immunization Program CHILD Profile will be printing both VIS forms, which should be available to order in mid-September. In the meantime, download these VIS forms from the CDC website.

Some additions and changes in the influenza VIS's from last year:

- The potential for increased risk of seizures caused by fever in young children getting inactivated flu vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13) at the same time.
- The flu season occurrence has been changed to October through May.
- A statement was added about one brand of inactivated flu vaccine, Afluria, which should not be given to children 8 years or younger. A related vaccine was associated with fevers and fever-related seizures in young children in Australia.

Private Influenza Vaccine Administered to Children:

Providers should check with individual health plans to find out if they will be reimbursed for privately purchased flu vaccines given to children.

Resources:

The Whatcom County Community Flu Clinic Schedule is updated regularly through the flu season.
www.co.whatcom.wa.us/health

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm60e0818a1.htm?s_cid=mm60e0818a1_w

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention flu page
www.cdc.gov/flu

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention free flu resources
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/>

CDC's Seasonal Influenza information for healthcare professionals can be found at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm>

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC's) Seasonal Influenza web section can be accessed at:
<http://www.immunize.org/influenza>

Attachments:

- 2011-2012 Season Flu Order Form
- Influenza VIS's
- Immunization Guidelines for the Use of State Supplied Vaccine (dated July 1,2011)