

MEMO

TO: North Dakota Prevention Partnership Providers

FROM: Miranda Baumgartner, *MB*
Vaccines for Children/QI Coordinator

RE: 2023 – 2024 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Pre-Book Information

DATE: January 13, 2023

For the 2023 - 2024 influenza season, all Vaccines for Children (VFC) influenza vaccine pre-booking will be done online. The online survey can be found on the North Dakota Department Health and Human Services (NDHHS) website at <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/public-health-information/diseases-conditions-and-immunization/immunizations/providers>. Please complete the online influenza vaccine pre-book survey by **Wednesday, February 1, 2023**. It is very important that pre-book orders are received prior to this date, as the NDHHS has to pre-book influenza vaccine with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Once the survey is submitted, the provider's influenza vaccine pre-book has been placed with NDHHS. As usual, the NDHHS asks all providers to print a copy of their submitted influenza vaccine pre-book to have on hand. The last page of the pre-booking survey will prompt providers to do this. Having a copy of your clinic's influenza vaccine pre-book will be helpful when vaccine begins to ship in early fall 2023. Influenza vaccine may not be provided to clinics who do not pre-book influenza vaccine.

North Dakota providers are encouraged to review 2022 – 2023 influenza vaccination rates and usage and set goals for increasing influenza vaccination rates during the 2023 – 2024 season. Providers should be pre-booking more influenza vaccine for the 2023 – 2024 season to increase influenza immunization rates.

Providers will be able to prebook influenza vaccine for un/underinsured adults (i.e., homeless population, refugees). Influenza vaccine that is prebooked by providers for VFC eligible pediatric patients should not be used for the adult population. A different brand and presentation will be sent for use in the adult population, so it is easy to keep track of. The VFC Program is an entitlement program, so if children are eligible to receive vaccine, they must be able to receive VFC vaccine.

The NDHHS highly recommends that providers pre-book more than one brand and presentation (i.e., vials and syringes), in case of influenza vaccine supply issues. By pre-booking only one brand or presentation, providers may not receive influenza vaccine until later in the influenza season, or not at all, if their particular brand or presentation is involved in a vaccine delay, shortage, or recall. Also, often in influenza seasons, certain brands or presentations are released through the allocation system sooner, so providers may receive doses earlier for this reason. Please keep in mind to only prebook brands or presentations that staff will be educated on how to use, pre-booking several brands may allow for faster delivery, but if staff are unaware how to administer them correctly it could result in medication errors. VFC influenza vaccine will be shipped from McKesson in multiple shipments to providers for the 2023 - 2024 influenza season.

NDHHS-supplied influenza vaccine must be used for **VFC-eligible children (Medicaid-eligible, American Indian or Alaskan Native, uninsured or underinsured) only.** It is your clinic's responsibility to order private influenza vaccine for insured children to ensure all children in your clinic are vaccinated. VFC influenza vaccine will be allocated to providers based on pre-book orders, previous influenza vaccine orders, doses administered entered into the NDIIS from the 2022- 2023 influenza season and your clinic's size. Providers are not guaranteed to receive all of the vaccine they pre-book.

Some suggestions for determining the amount of influenza vaccine to pre-book:

- Children eight years of age and younger who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time will need to receive **two** doses. The doses should be given at least four weeks apart.
- Use the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) to determine the amount of influenza vaccine administered last year. When running a doses administered report in the NDIIS, use "ALL VFC TYPES" for VFC TYPE and "STATE-SUPPLIED" for VACCINE TYPE. Do not select "All Clients." This will show the information based on vaccine type, not brand choice.
- Consider the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for vaccination of all children 6 months – 18 years. www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html

Contact the NDHHS Immunization Unit with any questions at vaccine@nd.gov.