

AN IMMUNIZATION UPDATE FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DATE: February 27, 2012
TO: MnVFC Providers
FROM: MnVFC Program
RE: MnVFC Pediatric Influenza Vaccine Orders – **Due March 9, 2012**

Please route to:

- Clinical supervisor
- Medical director
- Clinic manager
- Clinic staff
- Pharmacy
- Vaccine staff

It's time to order MnVFC influenza vaccine for the 2012-13 influenza season. As in years past, the MnVFC program only provides influenza vaccine for eligible children 18 years of age and younger.

Adults age 19 and older on a Minnesota Healthcare Program (MHCP) are not eligible for MnVFC vaccine. If you see MHCP adults you can use private stock and submit a claim to the patient's insurer.

How to Order Influenza Vaccine

Reminder: Starting July 1, 2012, MDH will no longer be able to provide MnVFC vaccine for underinsured children in private clinics. However, underinsured children will still be able to receive MnVFC vaccine at public clinics (i.e., Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Rural Health Centers (RHC), local public health (LPH), Indian Health Services (IHS), and tribal clinics). Please consider this change when placing your order and adjust accordingly.

- To order influenza vaccine online go to: https://idepc.health.state.mn.us/vfc_mn/
- To order via paper, use the attached *MnVFC Pediatric Influenza Vaccine Order Form*.
- Do not do both or you may receive double the amount of vaccine you really need!
- Not ordering influenza vaccine? **Please submit an order form even if you are not ordering influenza vaccine.** You can do this by:
 - Selecting the "No, I do not wish to prebook influenza vaccine from the Minnesota Department of Health" option online.
 - Placing an X in the box next to "Please check here if you will NOT be ordering influenza vaccine" on the paper form.
- To ensure your order in a good match to your MnVFC patient population, we'll compare it to your *Annual Report of the Number of MnVFC Patients Immunized*.

Influenza vaccine orders are **due by March 9, 2012**. We will let you know as soon as possible when you will receive your influenza vaccine.

Vaccine Product Information

- The strains for the 2012-2013 trivalent influenza vaccine are still being decided, more to come.
- Both inactivated (TIV) and live attenuated (LAIV) flu vaccine products are available (i.e., Fluzone and FluMist).
- Be sure to order enough thimerosal-free influenza vaccine (i.e., Fluzone pre-filled syringes and FluMist) for children whose parents may request it.
- The MnVFC program will make every effort to fill your request, but we may need to make adjustments based on product availability.
- As you prepare your order, keep in mind that LAIV is growing in popularity among children and adolescents (parents too!).

Immunization, Tuberculosis, and International Health Section
625 N Robert Street * P.O. Box 64975 * St Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975
www.health.state.mn.us/vfc

MnVFC PROGRAM: 651-201-5522 or 800-657-3970

- If you prefer to receive a different brand of flu vaccine than is listed on the order form, please send an email to health.MnVFC@state.mn.us. Once we know which brands are available on the CDC federal contract, we'll email you an order form that includes any additional brands offered.

Still Have Influenza Vaccine from this Year (2011-12)?

- Keep vaccinating – flu season isn't over yet!
- Try to finish the second dose in infants and children who need it. You can continue to do so until the vaccine expires.
- Check influenza vaccine expiration dates. The expiration date for inactivated flu vaccine is June 30 of each year. Expiration dates for LAIV vary as it usually expires much sooner than TIV.
- If you have expired and unused MnVFC influenza vaccine, please contact the MnVFC program before returning it to the distributor, McKesson.

If you have questions, call the MnVFC program at 651-201-5522 or toll-free at 1-800-657-3970.

Thank you.

Attachment: *MnVFC Pediatric Influenza Vaccine Order Form*

MnVFC Pediatric Influenza Vaccine Order Form

Complete this form and either fax it to 651-201-5501 or mail it to the address below by **March 9, 2012** — even if you are not ordering MnVFC influenza vaccine. Please note this is your only opportunity to request MnVFC influenza vaccine. Delivery information will be sent when it becomes available.

Please check here if you will NOT be ordering influenza vaccine.

Check here if new address

Date:	Clinic name:	MnVFC PIN:	
Delivery address (no PO boxes):		City:	ZIP code:
Contact name:	Email address:	Telephone number:	
Delivery instructions: Do not deliver on these days and times:			

Do you have expired or spoiled MnVFC vaccine?
All nonviable MnVFC vaccine (expired or spoiled) must be returned to McKesson. If you have expired and unused MnVFC influenza vaccine, please fax the **Returning Nonviable MDH Vaccine** form to 651-201-5501 and MDH will contact McKesson to coordinate a UPS pick-up within 2 to 5 business days.

Influenza vaccine	Age indications	Preservative-free or thimerosal-free*	Dose	Unit size	Doses ordered	Packaging	Type
Fluzone <small>(sanofi pastuer)</small>	6 months through 35 months ONLY	Thimerosal-free, preservative-free	0.25ml	10 doses		10 pre-filled syringes	Inactivated injectable
	36 months and older	Thimerosal-free, preservative-free	0.5ml	10 doses		10 pre-filled syringes or 10 single-dose vials	
	6 months and older	Contains thimerosal preservative	0.5ml	10 doses		10 multi-dose vials	
FluMist <small>(MedImmune)</small>	Healthy children age 2 years and older	Thimerosal-free, preservative-free	0.2ml	10 doses		10 single-dose sprayers	Live-attenuated intra-nasal

This order form must be signed by a licensed practitioner who is authorized to procure vaccine/biologicals according to Minnesota Statutes, Section 151.37 (e.g., M.D., D.O., nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or pharmacist). Please include the individual's title.
Signature and title (M.D., D.O., N.P., P.A., or R.Ph. only)

***Preservative-free vs. thimerosal-free**

Vaccines with trace amounts of thimerosal are labeled as preservative-free. Vaccines that do not contain any thimerosal are labeled as thimerosal-free.

Thimerosal is still used in the early stages of manufacture of a few vaccines to ensure the production line is sterile. It is removed through a purification process, with only trace remaining (about 1/100th of the amount found in older vaccines).

If you prefer to receive a different brand of flu vaccine than is listed on the order form, please send an email to health.MnVFC@state.mn.us. Once we become aware of which brands are available on the federal contract, we will email you an order form including any additional brands offered on the federal contract.