



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Health Services
Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
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Vaccine Supply Update

Dear VFC Provider,

Please refer to the following important update regarding the availability of selected VFC-supplied vaccines.

HIB VACCINE SUPPLY

- Due to a limited supply of Hib vaccine nationwide, a number of VFC provider's vaccine orders have been placed on back-order until additional vaccine doses are received. Pending orders are expected to be released during the **first week in February**.
- Providers who fall within a bi-monthly or quarterly order frequency are asked to submit monthly **Hib** vaccine requests instead.
- All Hib vaccine requests will be processed according to historical vaccine usage and will be reduced to coincide with interim recommendations.
- A limited number of PedVax® Hib vaccine doses are available, upon request, to Tribal/Indian Health Service clinics only.
- COMVAX® is not available through VFC. An updated copy of VFC's Order Form may be found at www.vfcca.org.

INFLUENZA VACCINE SUPPLY

- Pending influenza vaccine requests received the week of January 7th will be released this week. In instances where the preferred product is no longer available, a similar vaccine product will be shipped instead.
- FluMist® is no longer available through VFC and no product substitution will occur.
- We encourage your practice to continue flu vaccination through the end of January and into February, as influenza disease activity peaks during these months.
- VFC will continue to accept flu vaccine orders for the products listed below:
Fluzone®-PF 0.25mL, Fluvirin®-Novartis Multi-dose vials, and Fluzone®-Sanofi preservative-free .5ml vials.

VARICELLA VACCINE SHIPMENTS

- Merck is no longer experiencing delays with varicella vaccine shipments. Providers should expect to receive varicella vaccine requests within 3-4 weeks of order submission.

PROTECTING YOUR VACCINES DURING WINTER STORMS

- During a power failure vaccine storage units should not be opened. Most undisturbed units will remain cold for many hours. Pre-outage water bottles placed in the refrigerator and ice packs in the freezer will help to preserve some temperature.
- If power is lost for a number of days, Varicella, MMR, Rotavirus and LAIV are most vulnerable to warm temperatures and may need to be moved.
- Vaccines exposed to temperatures outside the recommended temperature range should be clearly marked "DO NOT USE" and kept refrigerated. The VFC Program or VFC Field Representative should be contacted. **Do not discard any vaccine until you have contacted VFC.**

For any questions, please call (877) 243-8832 or visit www.vfcca.org.