



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

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

Dear VFC Provider,

The following is a brief update on influenza vaccine:

1. FLUMIST

MedImmune received approval from the FDA to lower the age indication for FluMist to 2 years of age. FluMist is contraindicated in individuals with history of hypersensitivity to eggs, egg proteins, gentamicin, gelatin or arginine or with life-threatening reactions to previous influenza vaccinations, and in children and adolescents receiving concomitant aspirin or aspirin-containing therapy.

Do not administer FluMist to children <24 months of age due to an increased risk of hospitalization and wheezing that was observed in clinical trials. FluMist should not be administered to any individual with asthma and to children <5 years of age with recurrent wheezing unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk. Do not administer FluMist to individuals with severe asthma or active wheezing.

If Guillain-Barré syndrome has occurred with prior influenza vaccination or if an individual is immunocompromised, the decision to give FluMist should be based on careful consideration of the potential benefits and risks. FluMist should not be administered to individuals with underlying medical conditions predisposing them to wild-type influenza infection complications unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk.

A revised order form is available on the VFC web page at www.vfcca.org. Initial orders of Flumist were put on hold because we did not have product available. The VFC Office has received its allocation and will now be releasing orders. Please do not place second orders until your receive order. If you need additional vaccine at that point, please go ahead and place a second order.

2. OTHER INFLUENZA PRODUCTS

More vaccine is arriving weekly! Initial orders had to be drastically cut due to the supply we had at the time. If you need additional vaccine, please continue to submit subsequent orders throughout flu season. Please do not over-order or place an order larger than you can store in your refrigerator.

For any questions, please call a VFC Customer Service Representative at 1-877-243-8832 or visit our website at www.vfcca.org. Thank you!!!