



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
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www.eziz.org

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VFC Update

Dear VFC Provider,

Please refer to the following important messages:

FLU VACCINE SUPPLY

- VFC still has adequate supplies of influenza vaccines, except for FluMist®, and supplemental vaccine requests continue to be accepted. FluMist® is no longer available from VFC, but providers may request preservative-free Fluzone® to vaccinate patients instead. Flu vaccine should continue to be offered to VFC-eligible patients 6 months thru 18 years of age who have not yet been vaccinated this season. As a reminder, per California Law, (Health and Safety (H&S) Code Section 124172), children younger than 3 years old and pregnant women should only be given thimerosal free vaccine. Keep in mind that flu season peaks in January or later, so do not miss an opportunity to vaccinate even after the holiday break!

VFC RECERTIFICATION

- VFC's annual Provider Recertification was due **December 15th 2008**. If you have not yet completed your recertification, please visit www.eziz.org to complete and submit your 2009 VFC Provider Recertification as soon as possible to prevent any delays in the processing of vaccine requests after January 1, 2009. To log-in the system, use your clinic's Zip code and your VFC PIN (6-digit number). You may find this number on your shipment's packing slip, in the "Provider Pin Section", and followed by the letters CAA. Please only enter the 6-digit number.

VARICELLA VACCINE SHIPMENTS

- Merck is experiencing a temporary backorder of varicella vaccine orders. Orders submitted to VFC from the last week of November through December 12, 2008 should ship by December 22, 2008. For more information visit www.merckvaccines.com.

PLANNING ON PLACING REQUESTS FOR KINRIX AND ROTARIX?

- During the introductory phase of NEW vaccines, VFC may adjust vaccine requests based on reported vaccine doses on hand and the number of vaccine doses used. To prevent over-stocking of these vaccines, excess inventory for products currently used (particularly Rotavirus vaccine) should be decreased **prior** to placing your new request. New requests should be included as part of your regularly scheduled vaccine order. Keep in mind the age recommendation and number of recommended doses when projecting the number of doses to request. For instance, Rotarix® requires two doses versus three for Rotateq®, so your initial order of Rotarix® should be approximately 60% of your historical usage. Kinrix® is only licensed for patients 4-6 years, so your initial order should be approximately 20% of your historical DTaP usage.

VFC has now a new website: www.eziz.org. Visit us!