

**PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
IN YOUR PRACTICE**

TO: All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

FROM: Mick Bolduc-Vaccines For Children Coordinator
Connecticut Immunization Program

DATE: August 25, 2008

SUBJECT: FluMist Vaccine now Available

The primary purpose of this communication is to notify you of the availability of FluMist vaccine for your **VFC-eligible population** and to make you aware of the other flu formulations we will be providing this influenza season.

Pediatric Influenza Vaccine

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) now recommends that all children 6 months to 18 years of age be vaccinated yearly against influenza. The full 2008 Prevention & Control of Influenza Recommendations can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

As influenza vaccine is now beginning to trickle in, beginning September 1st, the Immunization Program is making available FluMist (nasal spray) vaccine to immunize all VFC-eligible children 2-18 years of age. As a reminder, VFC eligibility is defined as follows:

- Medicaid enrolled
- No health insurance
- American Indian or Alaskan Native

In addition, those individuals who are underinsured (have health insurance that does not cover the cost of immunizations) can be referred to a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to be immunized with VFC-supplied vaccine.

Beginning on September 1st, you can order FluMist vaccine for your VFC-eligible population. During flu season (September-January) all practices can place orders for all vaccines on a monthly basis - even those on a bi-monthly or quarterly ordering schedule. Be sure to have your order in to the Immunization Program no later than the first business day of the month and limit your orders to what you will need for that month. As the flu vaccine supply will likely peak in November – January, we suggest you plan to do most of your ordering and vaccination centered around those months. We will return to a tiered ordering schedule (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly) on February 1, 2009.

Please see the chart below for the proper flu dosing by patient age. As a reminder, two doses of influenza vaccine administered one month apart are recommended for children less than 9 years of age who are receiving the vaccine for the first time. We will be supplying several different products

during the course of the flu season and will notify you when other flu products become available. For the month of September please restrict your influenza order to FluMist. Please be aware that **FluMist has a self life of 18 weeks** so some of the product you receive will expire by the end of November.

The following is a list of the flu formulations we will be providing this influenza season:

Manufacturer	Vaccine	Formulation	Thimerosal	Age Indication
Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone	.25 ml syringe	No	6-35 months
	Fluzone	.5 ml vial	No	3 years and older
	Fluzone	.5 ml syringe	No	3 years and older
	Fluzone	5 ml Multi-dose vial	Yes	6 months and older
Novartis	Fluvirin	5 ml Multi-dose vial	Yes	4 years and older
	Fluvirin	.5 ml syringes	No	4 years and older
MedImmune	FluMist	.2 ml sprayer	No	2-49 years

We will do our best to fill your monthly order as completely as possible, but you may not receive all the doses you requested, especially for orders placed in September and October before the full influenza vaccine supply is available. Thus, continue to order flu vaccine on a monthly basis. No backorders will be filled (e.g., if you order 100 doses and only receive 10, you will not be shipped the other 90 doses the next month unless you order them again).

Our goal is to supply you with preservative-free vaccine, but you may receive some thimerosal-containing product based on the inventory we receive from the manufacturers. Please be sure to check which product you receive before administering the vaccine.

As always, if you have any questions please call the State Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.

Age Group	Dosage	No. of Doses	Route
6-35 months	0.25 mL	1 or 2*	IM
3-8 years	0.50 mL	1 or 2*	IM or intranasal**
9 years and older	0.50 mL	1	IM or intranasal**

* 2 doses administered at least 1 month apart are recommended for children younger than 9 who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time.

** intranasal administration of live attenuated influenza virus is only approved for children 2 years of age and older and is a .2 mL dose.