

Pediatric Influenza Vaccine Ordering: Changes Ahead!

This year, there will be changes in how VFC practices order pediatric flu vaccine from the Immunization Program as flu vaccine ordering is incorporated into the Vaccine Inventory Management System (VIMS).

From September 6 through November 6, the process will remain the same as in years past. The Immunization Program will place an initial “bulk” order for all eligible offices the week of September 4-7. Practices with few pediatric patients may receive up to 100% of their order in this first shipment. Larger practices will receive about 25% of their expected order, in consideration of the storage space needed for these pre-filled syringes. Subsequent orders will be placed by Immunization Program staff in 3 or 4-week intervals, ending November 6.

After the last bulk order is placed, practices may order additional flu vaccine directly through VIMS! Flu vaccine can be requested concurrent with a routinely scheduled order or independently, as needed. This change will eliminate the need to contact the Immunization Program for each flu order; allow practices to check the status and track shipments; and improve data quality.

Best Practice: Plan to place a flu order within 7 days of the submission of a VIMS Reconcile Request to avoid the necessity of having to perform a separate inventory count.

As the implementation period approaches for this change, program staff will provide you with guidance documents and be available to answer questions