

Flu Vaccine will be added to the VFA Program in 2019-20!

Beginning in Fall 2019, adult flu vaccine will be available to all VFA enrolled providers for use in adults 19-64 years of age. This change has been made in response to falling flu vaccination rates, requests from adult medical practices and in keeping with the Vermont statutory requirement to provide vaccines at the lowest possible cost.

When Vermont adult flu vaccination rates were noted to be decreasing, the Immunization Program assessed statewide access to vaccine, identified needs and collaborated with a UVM master's student to conduct an economic assessment of the impact of adding flu vaccine to the VFA program. The results of this work were shared with the Immunization Funding Advisory Committee in June 2018. In the Fall 2018, the Immunization Program surveyed practices to identify interest and determine how many would order their vaccine through the VFA program – 80% of respondents noted that they would.

IMPLEMENTATION- THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

During the annual VFC/VFA reenrollment in January 2019, all VFA practices must identify if they will be ordering flu vaccine through the VFA program.

Each practice choosing to order adult flu vaccine through the VFA Program must identify the anticipated number of doses for patients age 19 – 64 they estimate will be needed for the 2019-20 flu season. This will be non-binding for the practice, however, it will assist the Immunization Program. This will also allow you the opportunity to consider how to adjust your own private purchase for patients 65 and older. In order to purchase flu vaccine at reduced prices from the CDC contract, the Immunization Program is required to pre-book all flu vaccine orders in February 2019 for the following flu season. Our pre-book order is a binding agreement.

One unique consideration – VFA practices will not be required to order flu vaccine through the VFA Program at this time. Flu vaccine is accessible through many avenues and the environment is changing. The addition of flu vaccine to the VFA Program will be monitored and evaluated by the Program and the Immunization Funding Advisory Committee.

The Immunization Program will work to make this change a success. Please provide us with feedback as we roll out these changes in 2019.