

This document provides primary care practices (PCPs) with additional detail about state-provided influenza vaccines for children and adults for the 2023/2024 vaccination season. As new information becomes available, it will be presented in **Red**.

Flu Vaccine Ordering

How will PCPs order the flu vaccine? How do we place our first vaccine order?

- Practices will place orders on their own, in VIMS, beginning August 28, 2023.
- For first flu vaccine orders only, practices must reconcile their full vaccine inventory in VIMS before placing a flu-only order.
- Only the first flu vaccine order will require you to reconcile your whole vaccine inventory. Subsequent orders can be placed as needed, using the flu-only reconciliation option.
- Initial orders should be based on immediate need and storage capacity. Consider orders every 3 – 4 weeks if storage capacity allows. Practices should not order the full season's inventory at once.
- When ordering flu vaccine, keep vaccine storage in mind. The new monovalent COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be available in early fall. Do not order more vaccine than you can safely store.

Do not order other routine vaccines along with your flu order. Place a flu-only order. Exception if it's your scheduled, routine ordering window.

Do I need to pre-order flu vaccines for 2023/2024 season?

- No. Estimates of flu vaccine needed for PCPs have been made using data from the prior season and the Vermont Immunization Registry. However, PCPs will not be limited to the quantity ordered or administered last season.

What if my practice wants to change its status regarding participation in the state-supplied adult flu vaccine program for the 2023/2024 season?

- Receipt of the state-supplied flu vaccine is required through enrollment in the Vermont Children's Vaccine Program (VCVP). Receipt for adults (age 19 – 64) is not required. If your practice is a member of a practice group or affiliated with a hospital or other healthcare organization, ensure that your choices regarding adult flu vaccine align with your umbrella organization.

If a practice wants to change participation from the prior season, send an email to: AHS.VDHimmunizationProgram@vermont.gov, include your PIN and contact information, and advise us of the change immediately.

What type of flu vaccine will we receive?

- Several brands of inactivated influenza vaccine quadrivalent (IIV4) are available. Products are all single-dose prefilled syringes, and preservative-free. The [Vaccine Availability](#) list is up to date and includes the NDC, CPT, and CVX codes of state-supplied flu vaccines. PCPs cannot request specific brands or presentations of flu vaccines. Available products will display in your VIMS catalog and may change throughout the season.

Is FluMist available this season?

- A limited supply of FluMist, Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine is available for patients ages 2 through 18 years. When available it will be populated into VCVF catalogs.

Are there Vermont Immunization Registry reporting requirements?

- Yes, all vaccine doses must be entered into the Vermont Immunization Registry, including those given to adults who are not your patients. If you need assistance, contact the registry directly at IMR@vermont.gov. See the [Influenza Vaccine Code Guidance](#) for details on flu vaccine reporting codes.

Who can receive state-supplied flu vaccine?

- Influenza vaccine may be used to immunize any person 6 months through 64 years, including adults who are your staff, patients, and parents/caregivers of your patients.

What about patients 65 years and older? Is high-dose or adjuvanted vaccine available?

- We regret that the Program cannot provide either of the vaccines specifically recommended for those 65 years and older (Fluzone High-Dose, Flublok, and Flud adjuvanted), as they are not available on the CDC contract. Beginning last year, the CDC made a preferential recommendation for higher dose or adjuvanted flu vaccines for this age group. The Immunization Program encourages practices to make these available to patients by purchasing privately or referring patients to a pharmacy. [CDC Director Adopts Preference for Specific Flu Vaccines for Seniors | CDC](#)

Can a practice receive the state-supplied flu vaccine for adults as well as a private purchase supply?

- Yes, but you can seek insurer reimbursement only for privately purchased doses administered to adults.

Offsite Clinics

Are we allowed to take Flu vaccine offsite for clinics? How should we notify the Immunization Program?

- Offsite flu clinics are encouraged to increase access in your community. Similar to previous seasons, there will be some restrictions on the transport and management of vaccines, and orders should be planned appropriately to ensure enough stock for clinics. Contact us if you would like to partner with a school or other group for a community clinic.

Does the Immunization Program have any guidance for Flu Clinics?

- See [Vaccine Storage and Handling for Offsite Clinics](#) for information on running offsite clinics, including a pre/post clinic checklist. Plan ahead and always contact the Immunization Program with any questions or concerns about running your clinics.

What if we don't have an approved cooler? Can we use frozen water bottles or ice packs?

- The Immunization Program has qualified vaccine carriers available to assist practices in conducting offsite clinics. See the [Vaccine Carrier Borrowing Program Guide](#) for more information.
- Use of these carriers is expected for offsite clinics. Previous guidance provided by the CDC [Packing Vaccine for Transport during Emergencies](#) is only appropriate for short vaccine transfers between monitored units. Please request a carrier from the Immunization Program for prolonged storage during clinics. Ice packs and soft-sided coolers are never allowed.

Flu Vaccination and COVID-19

Can Flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine be administered at the same time?

- Yes, you may administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines (live attenuated and inactivated influenza vaccines) without regard to timing (on the same day or within any time interval). There are no safety concerns for coadministration. Refer to the CDC's COVID-19 [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) for more information.

Flu Resources:

Websites:

- [Immunization & Health Care Professionals | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov/immunization-health-care-professionals)
- [Immunization Registry | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov/immunization-registry)
- [Influenza Information for Healthcare Professionals | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/hcp/)
- [Flu & People 65 Years and Older | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/older/)
- [Ask the Experts: Influenza Vaccines \(immunize.org\)](https://www.immunize.org/experts/)

HCP Resources:

- [Vaccine Availability Sheet](#)
- [Vaccine Carrier Borrowing Program \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov/vaccine-carrier-borrowing-program)
- [Packing Vaccines for Transport during Emergencies \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/hcp/packing-vaccines-transport-emergencies)
- [IMR Vaccine Code List](#)

Patient resources:

- [Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information Statement | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/hcp/inactivated-influenza-vaccine-information-statement)
- [Live Intranasal Influenza Vaccine Information Statement | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/hcp/live-intranasal-influenza-vaccine-information-statement)
- [Flu Print Resources | CDC](#)