

This document provides primary care practices (PCPs) with additional detail about state-provided influenza vaccines for children and adults for the 2021/2022 vaccination season. As new information becomes available, it will be presented in **Red**.

Flu Vaccine Ordering

How will PCPs order the flu vaccine?

This year practices will place orders on their own in VIMS beginning in early September. Historically the Immunization Program has placed initial flu vaccine orders on behalf of PCPs early in the vaccination season.

Do I need to pre-order flu vaccines for the 2021-22 season?

No. Estimates of flu vaccine needed for PCPs has been made using data from the 2020-21 season and the Vermont Immunization Registry. PCPs will not be limited to the quantity ordered or administered last season.

What if my practice wants to change its status regarding state-supplied flu ordering for the 2021-22 season?

Receipt of state-supplied flu is required through enrollment in the Vermont Children's Vaccine Program (VCVP). Receipt of state-supplied flu vaccine for adults is not required. If your practice is a member of a practice group or affiliated with a hospital or other health care organization, assure 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 as soon as possible.

Can a practice receive the state-provided flu vaccine as well as a private purchase supply?

Yes, remember to separate supplies for billing purposes. **Do NOT cancel private purchase adult flu vaccine orders your practice may have prebooked.**

What type of flu vaccine will we receive?

Several brands of inactivated influenza vaccine quadrivalent (IIV4) are available. Products will be single dose (either prefilled syringe or vial) and preservative-free. The [Vaccine Availability](#) list is up to date and includes the NDC, CPT, and CVX codes of flu vaccines we're aware are being supplied by the CDC. Additional flu brands or presentations may become known later in the season, and this list will update as we are notified. PCPs cannot request specific brands or presentations of flu vaccines.

Is FluMist available this season?

A limited supply of FluMist, Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine is available for patients age 2 through 18 years.

How do we place our first vaccine order?

For your first vaccine order, practices will be required to reconcile their full vaccine inventory before placing a flu only order. Only the first flu vaccine order will require you to reconcile your full vaccine inventory. Subsequent orders can be done using the flu-only reconciliation option and may be placed as needed.

Are there Vermont Immunization Registry reporting requirements?

Yes, all vaccine doses provided through the state must be entered into the Vermont Immunization Registry, including those given to adults who are not your patients. If you need assistance with this, contact the registry directly at IMR@vermont.gov.

Who can receive the adult flu vaccine?

Influenza vaccine may be used to immunize any person age 19 and older at your practice, including adults who are your staff, patients, and parents/caregivers of your patients. Patients age 65 and older may receive the state-supplied flu vaccine, though they are not eligible for other VAVP provided vaccines.

Do you have the high-dose vaccine available?

We regret that the Program cannot provide either of the two vaccines specifically formulated for those 65 years and older (Fluzone High Dose and FluAd adjuvanted), as they are not available on the CDC contract. Practices are encouraged to provide those to their patients with privately purchased vaccine or refer patients to pharmacies.

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 last season, there will be some restrictions around the transport and management of vaccines. However, it is no longer necessary to notify the Immunization Program of any offsite clinic activity.

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 this program 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. For prolonged storage during clinics, please request a carrier from the Immunization Program. 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 (both live, attenuated and non-live 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.

Last season we implemented protocols around flu vaccination due to the pandemic. Is this still recommended?

Reducing COVID-19 transmission should still be a priority when planning your flu program. See CDC's [Interim Guidance for Routine and Influenza Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) for more information.