

# Vermont Immunization Bulletin

## The 2019-20 Flu Issue

### In this issue:

- 2019-20 Flu Season
    - 2019-2020 State Supplied Influenza Vaccine Bulletin
    - Influenza Vaccines for Adults
    - School Clinics
    - Administration
  - Reminder: Audit Your Nodes!
  - Become a Sentinel Provider
  - Flu Activity Weekly Reports
  - Updated VIS List
  - HPV vaccine for use in adults 27-45
  - Flu Research and Resources
    - Ask the Experts
    - Why get a Flu Shot?
    - Successful Strategies for Running a Flu Clinic
    - FAQ: Egg Allergy
    - Vaccinating Pregnant Women
    - Influenza in Older Adults
    - Video: Influenza Excerpt from A Perilous Quest to Save the World's Children
- 

## 2019-20 Flu Season

### 2019-2020 State Supplied Influenza Vaccine Bulletin

The annual printable Flu Bulletin is a provider tool that includes information about the current season's vaccine composition, recommendations, dosage, administration schedules, supply updates, and Vaccine Information Statements. It can be opened and printed [here](#).

The Bulletin sources information from the following publications:

- [Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2019–20 Influenza Season Recommendations and Reports / August 23, 2019 / 68\(3\):1–21](#)

- [CDC: Frequently Asked Flu Questions: 2019-2020 Influenza Season](#)
- [Update: Influenza Activity in the United States During the 2018–19 Season and Composition of the 2019–20 Influenza Vaccine](#)

**2019-2020 STATE SUPPLIED INFLUENZA VACCINE BULLETIN**

Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all people aged 6 months and older who do not have a contraindication. VFC and VFA flu vaccine may be used to immunize any person age 6 months through 64 years at your practice. This may include your patients, parents/caregivers of your patients, and your staff. Practices will not be required to separate pediatric and adult flu vaccine supplies. **Vaccine may not be used in offsite locations this year**, with the exception of those practices who have informed us during the month of August of arrangements to hold pediatric only, school located flu clinics.

**Composition**

The 2019-20 quadrivalent influenza vaccines used in the United States contain:

- A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (updated 2019-20)
- A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)-like virus (updated 2019-20)
- B/Coleman/06/2017-like (Victoria lineage) virus
- B/Phuket/30/2013-like (Yamagata lineage) virus

**Specific product information including NDC, CPT, and CVX codes are included on the [Vaccine Availability \(VFC only\)](#) document.** All injectable products are single dose syringes or vials, quadrivalent, and preservative free. Add each to your electronic health record, since requests for specific brands or presentations cannot be accommodated.

**LAIV for the 2019-2020 Season**

Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) FluMist-Quad, also known as the "nasal spray" flu vaccine will be available for patients age 2 through 18 years. However, due to CDC supply limits, Vermont will receive fewer than 2,500 doses. In August, practices were asked to complete a brief survey if they were interested in LAIV.

**Supply, Ordering, and Distribution**

Vaccine orders will be placed on your behalf during September and October. Vaccine delivery is expected to begin in early September with multiple shipments throughout the season. Watch for emails that will be sent to the Vaccine Coordinator and Backup when an order has been placed. Later in the season practices will order their own flu vaccine in VIMS. Guidance will be provided at that time.

A delay in the selection of the H3N2 vaccine component of the 2019-20 influenza vaccine may delay availability of some products vaccine nationally and in Vermont. We will share more information as it becomes available.

**Communication**

As the Season gets underway, keep an eye on the inbox—the Immunization Program primarily uses email to notify practices about orders placed, supply issues, and other timely issues. It is also important that vaccine contacts don't wait to share important information. When your fridge is full and cannot accept additional deliveries, if you need fewer or more doses, or if you begin vaccinating late (October instead of September), let us know!

Please stay in communication with the Immunization Program using the group email address: [VFC@immunizationprogram@vermont.gov](mailto:VFC@immunizationprogram@vermont.gov).

**FLU VACCINE ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

Dosing and schedules for patients age 6 months and up

The following children will need 2 doses of influenza vaccine in the 2019-20 season, administered at least 4 weeks apart:

- Children aged 6 months through 8 years who have never been vaccinated against influenza or for whom vaccination history is unknown
- Children aged 6 months through 8 years who have not received 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine (bivalent or quadrivalent) before July 1, 2019.

The following patients will require only 1 dose of influenza vaccine for the 2019-20 season:

- Children 6 months through 8 years who have received 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine (bivalent or quadrivalent) before July 1, 2019.

**NEW THIS YEAR: Injectable dose volume for children age 6 through 55 mos.**  
The dose is 0.5mL for all IM provided by the Immunization Program for use in all patients 6 months and older. Although a higher dose than in past seasons, the 0.5mL dose has been proven to be both safe and effective for infants and young children. The lower dose previously recommended (0.25mL) was a different formulation.

**Full ACP Recommendations**  
Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices – United States, 2019–20 Influenza Season. MMWR Recomm Rep 2019;68(No. RR-9):1–21. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/cdr/rrz094>

**Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)**  
The Influenza VIS can be found on CDC's website. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/influenza-vis.html>. The page includes links to VIS translations in many languages. The edition dated 9/15/2019 should be used for the current flu season.

- [Inactivated Influenza VIS](#)
- [Live, Intranasal Influenza VIS](#)

## Influenza Vaccine for Adults Provided by the VFA Program

VFA flu vaccine may be used to immunize any person age 19–64 years at your practice. This may include adults who are your patients, parents/caregivers of your patients, and your staff. *Vaccine may not be used in offsite locations this year.*

## School Clinics

If your practice intends to partner with a school to hold a seasonal influenza clinic for students (or to administer any vaccine to any student age 18 or under in a school setting) please [email the Immunization Program](#) as soon as possible. The lead medical practice, not the school, must complete a VFC enrollment addendum, provide an estimated number of doses needed, and a clinic schedule.

## Administration

- Print this [step-by-step one page guide](#) to administering intramuscular and intranasal flu vaccines provided by the Immunization Action Coalition.
- CDC's Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases (The Pink Book) has an entire chapter on [Vaccine Administration](#) which includes many techniques and tricks of the trade.

# Program Updates

## Audit Your Nodes!



Username

Password



The Immunization Program provided SensoScientific cloud-based Wi-Fi data loggers to VFC/VFA enrolled practices recently. Practices are required to record the minimum and maximum temperature reading once per day at the time the practice opens. This is accomplished when a user logs into the cloud system, checks off each vaccine storage unit, and clicks "Audit Node".

- Log In to the SensoScientific Cloud [here](#).
- Questions? [Here](#) is a quick Reference Guide.

---

## State Activities

### Become a Sentinel Provider

Help protect Vermonters from flu by providing data. It's easy and enhances flu surveillance. Sentinel providers play a crucial role in helping public health understand the burden of influenza on Vermont. The data you provide is used to guide prevention and control activities across the state. For more information on what is required and how to enroll as a sentinel provider, please visit the Health Department's [Flu Activity and Surveillance](#) page.

### Did you know? Flu Activity Weekly Reports

Beginning in late September, Flu activity is summarized in a weekly report for both providers and the public on the Health Department website. This report gives a snapshot of syndromic surveillance and sentinel influenza-like illness (ILI) data, as well as weekly and cumulative laboratory tests and results. Find current and historic reports [here](#).

---

# Schedules and Recommendations

## Updated Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)

In recent weeks, the following updated VIS have been posted on the CDC's [VIS website](#):

- live attenuated influenza (LAIV)
- inactivated influenza
- meningococcal ACWY
- meningococcal B
- MMR
- MMRV
- varicella
- hepatitis B
- Japanese encephalitis

Practices are encouraged to begin using the updated VIS immediately.

## HPV vaccine for use in adults 27-45

The CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) published the [HPV vaccine recommendations for use in adults 27-45](#) this month. The following key points are taken directly from the MMWR report:

### CDC Recommendations:

- **Children and adults aged 9 through 26 years.** HPV vaccination is routinely recommended at age 11 or 12 years; vaccination can be given starting at age 9 years. Catch-up HPV vaccination is recommended for all persons through age 26 years who are not adequately vaccinated.
- **Adults aged >26 years:** Catch-up HPV vaccination is not recommended for all adults aged >26 years. Instead, shared clinical decision-making regarding HPV vaccination is recommended for some adults aged 27 through 45 years who are not adequately vaccinated.

### Considerations for shared clinical decision-making regarding human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination of adults aged 27-45:

Ideally, HPV vaccination should be given in early adolescence because vaccination is most effective before exposure to HPV through sexual activity. For adults aged 27 through 45 years who are not adequately vaccinated, clinicians can consider discussing HPV vaccination with persons who are most likely to benefit. HPV vaccination does not need to be discussed with most adults aged >26 years.

HPV vaccine supplied through the VFA program may be used for patients 27-45 years of age based on the MMWR's recommendations.

---

# Flu Research and Resources

## **Ask the Experts: When should influenza vaccine be given?**

*You can begin administering vaccine as soon as it becomes available. Optimally, vaccination should occur before onset of influenza activity in the community. Healthcare providers should offer vaccination by the end of October, if possible, and vaccination activity should continue through the fall and winter months, as long as influenza virus is circulating in the community. Early vaccination of children younger than age 9 years who need 2 doses of vaccine can be helpful in assuring routine second doses are given before the influenza season begins.*

Experts from CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases address this and many other questions about vaccines in Immunize.org's [Ask the Experts](#) forum.

## **Why you need the Flu Shot Every Year**

“Even when you have these mismatches, you probably are preventing severe disease,” Dr. Hensley said, “which in my mind is one of the most important goals, preventing someone from dying.”

This [New York Times article](#) takes the reader through how the flu virus attacks and evolves, how the vaccine works, and why it is important to be vaccinated every year even when efficacy numbers are low.

## **Successful Strategies for Running a Flu Clinic**

Dr. Christoph Diasio has tried a number of different approaches toward running a flu clinic, and shared some of his most successful strategies in the Pediatric EHR Solutions [blog](#).

## **FAQ: Can I get a flu vaccine if I am allergic to eggs?**

The [recommendations](#) for people with egg allergies are the same as last season.

- People who have experienced only hives after exposure to egg can get any licensed flu vaccine that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health.
- People who have symptoms other than hives after exposure to eggs, such as angioedema, respiratory distress, lightheadedness, or recurrent emesis; or who have needed epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention, can also get any licensed flu vaccine that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health, but the vaccine should be given in a medical setting and be supervised by a health care provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions. (Settings include hospitals, clinics, health departments, and physician offices). People with egg allergies no longer have to wait 30 minutes after receiving their vaccine.

### **Vaccinate Pregnant Women Against Influenza**

Changes in the immune system, heart, and lungs during pregnancy make pregnant women more prone to severe illness from flu, including illness resulting in hospitalization. Getting vaccinated can also help protect a baby after birth from flu.

- [CDC's Pregnant Women & Influenza](#) page is a compendium of resources including information on Vaccine Safety, resources for clinicians and patients, and links to studies.
- [Seasonal Influenza for Obstetrician- Gynecologists FAQ](#)

### **Severe Flu Raises Risk of Birth Problems for Pregnant Women, Babies - read or listen NPR**

A study published in late 2018 shows that pregnant women with the flu who are hospitalized in an intensive care unit are four times more likely to deliver babies prematurely and four and a half times more likely to have a baby of low birth weight. [Read or listen to Dr. Sonja Rasmussen discuss the findings.](#)

### **Influenza in Older Adults**

The flu can be serious for everyone – but for adults age 65 years and older, the risk of flu-related hospitalization and complications is particularly high. The gradual deterioration of the immune system due to aging results in an elevated risk of complications from flu in older adults. The weakened immune system makes it harder for them to combat disease, and decreases the immune response to standard influenza vaccines. *Please note: all vaccine, including flu, provided by Vermont's Vaccines for Adults program is available for use in patients ages 19-64 only.*

- CDC's page [People 65 Years and Older & Influenza](#) discusses vaccines available to this population; symptoms and treatment; and other preventative actions.