

This document provides primary care practices (PCPs) with additional detail about state-provided influenza vaccines for children and adults for the 2022/2023 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 29, 2022.*

- For first vaccine orders, practices must reconcile their full vaccine inventory in VIMS before placing a flu-only order. You will not be able to place an order if you have not reconciled last season's expired flu vaccine.
- 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 seasons inventory at the end of August.
- When ordering flu vaccine, keep COVID-19 fall booster vaccine storage in mind. Do not order more vaccine than you can safely store.

### Do I need to pre-order flu vaccines for the 2022/2023 season?

No. Estimates of flu vaccine needed for PCPs have been made using data from the 2021/2022 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 2022/2023 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 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](mailto:AHS.VDHImmunizationProgram@vermont.gov), include your PIN and contact information, and advise us of the change as soon as possible.

## What type of flu vaccine will we receive?

Several brands of inactivated influenza vaccine quadrivalent (IIV4) are available. Products are 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 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.

## 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](mailto: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 over 65 years? Is high-dose or adjuvanted 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. New this year, the CDC has made a preferential recommendation for high-dose 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, 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.

## Is there money available as in past years to assist with running clinics?

We anticipate grant money to be available for the 2022/2023 flu season and are working to have these funds available for a broader usage than in the past. The application process will remain essentially the same, with more information to be communicated soon. Check the AAPVT website for future details:

[Welcome to the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter | AAPVT](#)

## 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.

### Will Flu vaccine be available at walk-in COVID-19 clinics?

It is a priority of the state to have flu vaccine available wherever COVID-19 vaccine is available, including all walk-in clinics. With this increased access, patients may get their flu vaccine at a walk-in clinic rather than their primary care office. We suggest ordering vaccines thoughtfully with that in mind. Walk-in clinics will not carry vaccine suitable for patients 65 and older.

## Flu Resources:

### Websites:

VDH Immunization Program: [www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/immunization-providers](http://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/immunization-providers)

VDH IMR: [www.healthvermont.gov/health-statistics-vital-records/registries/immunization](http://www.healthvermont.gov/health-statistics-vital-records/registries/immunization)

CDC Flu vaccination for HCP: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/flu/hcp/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/flu/hcp/index.html)

CDC flu and people 65+: [www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/65over.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/65over.htm)

Ask the Experts: [www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts\\_inf.asp](http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_inf.asp)

### HCP Resources:

#### Vaccine Availability Sheet

[www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ID\\_IZ\\_INFOHCP\\_VCPVAVP\\_VCPandVAVPVaccineAvailability.pdf](http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ID_IZ_INFOHCP_VCPVAVP_VCPandVAVPVaccineAvailability.pdf)

#### Vaccine Carrier Program

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/HS-IZ-Vaccine-Carrier-Program.pdf>

#### Offsite Clinic Guidance:

[www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Vaccine-Off-Site-Clinic-Guidance.pdf](http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Vaccine-Off-Site-Clinic-Guidance.pdf)

#### IMR Vaccine Code List:

[www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/IMR\\_Guidance\\_%20Influenza.pdf](http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/IMR_Guidance_%20Influenza.pdf)

### Patient resources:

Flu VIS sheet: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html)

Flu print resources: [www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/freeresources/flu-print-resources.html](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/freeresources/flu-print-resources.html)