



Georgia Department of Human Resources • Division of Public Health • Sandra Elizabeth Ford, M.D., MBA, Acting Director  
2 Peachtree Street NW • Suite 15.470 • Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142  
404-657-2700 • FAX: 404-657-6709

April 6, 2009

Dear Vaccines For Children (VFC) Provider:

### Preparation for the 2009 -2010 Influenza Season

Influenza vaccination is the primary method of preventing influenza and its severe complications. Preparation for and adequate supply of influenza vaccine is the best way to ensure that you will receive the supply you need to immunize all of your patients for the 2009-2010 influenza season.

**The current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP recommendation is for annual influenza vaccination of children to include all children from 6 months through 18 years of age.** The ACIP and its Influenza Working Group include representatives of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and others.

In the upcoming flu season (2009-2010) influenza v vaccine will be available for all VFC-eligible children 6 months through 18 years of age. Priority and high-risk criteria are no longer a factor in deciding who should be vaccinated.

For the 2009-10 influenza season, five (5) preparations of flu vaccine will be supplied through the Georgia VFC Program:

- Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) 0.25mL prefilled syringes (no preservative)---for children ages **6 months through 35 months**
- Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) 0.5 ml prefilled syringes (no preservative)---for children **≥ 36 months of age**
- Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur) 10-dose vial (with preservative)---for children **≥6 months of age**
- Fluvirin® (Novartis)---10 dose vial (with preservative) for children **≥ 4 years of age**
- FluMist® (MedImmune)---0.2 mL intranasal spray applicator for healthy children **≥ 2 years of age**

### How to Prepare-

The purpose of this request is to estimate influenza vaccine needs for VFC eligible patients in your care. We will use this information to determine how much influenza vaccine to order from CDC. In addition to assuring a sufficient vaccine supply, we also want to minimize wastage. As you know, excess flu vaccine cannot be used the following season and cannot be returned. In the case of VFC vaccine, it also cannot be distributed to non-eligible children or to adults. Thus, it is critical for us to obtain the best possible estimates of need.

The attached **2009-2010 Influenza Vaccine Estimate Form** must be completed for each facility expecting to receive a shipment of VFC influenza vaccine during the 2009-2010 flu season. Forms are due at the VFC office by mailing or faxing **no later than May 8, 2009**. **A supply of influenza vaccine cannot be guaranteed for providers who do not complete and return this form or submit it after the deadline.** Your facility's claims or vaccine usage data from prior years may be helpful in estimating your vaccine needs. If you do not wish to receive VFC influenza vaccine, please do NOT return this form. Any requests for influenza vaccine submitted to the VFC office after the deadline will be added to a waiting list.

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**Important:** Estimates should be as **realistic** as possible. For example, 100% uptake would not be a realistic expectation in any practice. Even 70% may be considered too high. Look at uptake (actual doses administered) in prior years for guidance.

For the most updated information regarding whom to vaccinate, when to vaccinate, and the dosing schedule, please go to the CDC's website dedicated to Seasonal Influenza at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

If you have questions, please contact the VFC Program at (404) 657- 5013 or outside of metro Atlanta area at (800) 848-3868.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Trigg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M" and "T".

Monica Trigg, MPH  
Vaccine Manager, Georgia Immunization Program

cc: Kimberley Hazelwood  
Immunization Program Consultants  
Adriane Saunders  
Lorrie Stewart  
Mike Chaney

# IMPORTANT INFLUENZA INFORMATION!!!

**Before administering flu vaccine, please be aware of the following important points:**

- **Which VFC children are eligible for flu vaccine?**
  - Healthy children ages 6 months through 18 years, including females aged <19 years who will be pregnant during influenza season
- **For the 2009-10 influenza season, five (5) preparations of flu vaccine will be supplied through the Georgia VFC Program:**
  - **Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)** 0.25mL prefilled syringes (no preservative) for children 6 months through 35 months.
  - **Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)** 0.5mL prefilled syringes (no preservative) for children ≥36 months of age
  - **Fluzone® (sanofi pasteur)** 10-dose vial (with preservative) for children ≥6 months of age
  - **Fluvirin® (Novartis)---**10-dose vial with preservative for children ≥ 4 years of age
  - **FluMist® (MedImmune)---**0.2 mL intranasal spray applicator for healthy children ≥2 years of age

- **Dosage Chart**

Vaccine	Age Group	Dosage & Route	Number of Doses	Minimum Interval from Dose 1 to 2
Fluzone®	6-35 months	0.25 mL IM	1 or 2*	28 days
	3-8 years	0.5 mL IM	1 or 2*	28 days
	≥9 years	0.5 mL IM	1	-----
Fluvirin®	≥4 years	0.5 mL IM	1 or 2*	28 days
FluMist®	≥2 years**	0.2 mL intranasally	1 or 2*	28 days

\* Two doses at least 1 month apart are recommended for children less than 9 years of age who are receiving influenza vaccine of any type, live or inactivated, **for the first time. If they only receive 1 dose the 1<sup>st</sup> year, they should receive 2 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> yr. If they only receive 1 dose in each of the first 2 yrs., they should continue receiving an annual dose.**

\*\* FluMist® should not be administered to children under the age of 2 years, nor to any child with a history of asthma or wheezing. Refer to package insert.

- **Contraindications:**
  - Allergy to vaccine components, such as eggs or thimerosal. Consult package insert.
  - Moderate or severe illness with or without fever.
- **Precautions:**
  - History of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) following influenza vaccination.
  - Immunization should be delayed in child with active neurologic disorder, at least until the disease process is stabilized.

# 2009-10 Influenza Vaccine Estimate Form

Fill out the following information (Please print):

<b>Clinic Name:</b>	
<b>VFC PIN #:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	

Formulation Type	Number of <b>Patients Expected To Receive Vaccine</b>	Number of <b>Doses Needed</b>
VFC eligible children 6 – 35 months of age* (0.25ml dose)		
VFC eligible children 3 through 18 years of age* to whom you expect to administer the <b><u>injectable vaccine</u></b> (0.5ml dose)		
VFC eligible children 2 through 18 years of age* to whom you expect to administer the <b><u>intranasal spray Flumist®**</u></b> (0.2ml dose) – stored in the <b>refrigerator</b>		
<b>Total</b>		

1. Do you have adequate storage capacity to accept all of your requested doses in a single shipment? \_\_\_\_\_
2. If not, what percentage of your order can you accept at one time? \_\_\_\_\_%

\*Two doses at least 1 month apart are recommended for children less than 9 years of age who are receiving influenza vaccine of any type, live or inactivated, **for the first time. If they only receive 1 dose the 1<sup>st</sup> year, they should receive 2 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> yr. If they only receive 1 dose in each of the first 2 yrs., they should continue receiving an annual dose.**

\*\* FluMist® should not be administered to children under the age of 2 years, nor to any child with a history of asthma or wheezing. Refer to package insert.

**Return this form to VFC no later than May 8, 2009.**

Mail to:  
 Georgia Immunization Program  
 2 Peachtree Street, NW 13-476  
 Atlanta, GA 30303

Or

fax to:  
 (404) 657-5736  
 or fax toll-free:  
 (800) 372-3627