PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN YOUR PRACTICE

TO: All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

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DATE: August 22, 2007

SUBJECT: Influenza Vaccine now Available

The primary purpose of this communication is to notify you of the availability of influenza vaccine for your **VFC-eligible population**.

Pediatric Influenza Vaccine

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends healthy children 6-59 months of age to be vaccinated yearly against influenza. The ACIP also encourages older siblings of 6-59 month olds, as well as out of home caregivers to be vaccinated. The principal reason for immunizing young children and their household contacts is the relatively high morbidity experienced by these children, as demonstrated by their high rates of hospitalization each year. The full 2007 Prevention & Control of Influenza Recommendations can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5606a1.htm?s cid=rr5606a1 e

As influenza vaccine is now beginning to trickle in, beginning September 1st, the Immunization Program is making available influenza vaccine to immunize all VFC-eligible children 6-59 months of age and their household contacts 5-18 years of age, as well as any VFC-eligible children 5-18 years of age who have risk factors for influenza disease or who are household contacts of people with risk factors for contracting influenza. As a reminder, VFC eligibility is defined as follows:

- -Medicaid enrolled
- -No health insurance
- -American Indian or Alaskan Native

In addition, those individuals who are underinsured (have health insurance that does not cover the cost of immunizations) can be referred to a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to be immunized with VFC-supplied vaccine.

Beginning on September 1st, you can order influenza vaccine for your VFC-eligible population. During flu season (September-January) all practices can place orders for all vaccines on a monthly basis - even those on a bi-monthly or quarterly ordering schedule. Be sure to have your order in to the Immunization Program no later than the first business day of the month and limit your orders to what you will need for that month. As the flu vaccine supply will likely peak in November – January, we suggest you plan to do most of your

ordering and vaccination centered around those months. We will return to a tiered ordering schedule (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly) on February 1, 2008.

Please see the chart below for the proper flu dosing by patient age. As a reminder, two doses of influenza vaccine administered one month apart are recommended for children less than 9 years of age who are receiving the vaccine for the first time. A new recommendation from ACIP is for individuals 6 months-8 years of age who received only one dose of influenza vaccine in their first year of vaccination to receive two doses the following year, with single annual doses in subsequent years. We will be supplying several different products during the course of the flu season:

Manufacturer	Vaccine	Formulation	Thimerosal	Age Indication
Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone	.25 ml single syringe	No	6-35 months
	Fluzone	.5 ml single vial	No	3 years and older
	Fluzone	.5 ml single syringe	No	3 years and older
	Fluzone	5 ml Multi-dose vial	Yes	6 months and older
Novartis	Fluvirin	5 ml Multi-dose vial	Yes	4 years and older
MedImmune	FluMist	.5 ml sprayer	No	5-49 years

We will do our best to fill your monthly order as completely as possible, but you may not receive all the doses you requested, especially for orders placed in September and October before the full influenza vaccine supply is available. Thus, continue to order flu vaccine on a monthly basis. No backorders will be filled (e.g., if you order 100 doses and only receive 10, you will not be shipped the other 90 doses the next month unless you order them again).

Our hope is to supply you with preservative-free vaccine, but you may receive some thimerosal-containing product based on the inventory we receive from the manufacturers. Please be sure to check which product you receive before administering the vaccine.

Attached are the updated vaccine information statements (VIS) for both the inactivated, and live intranasal influenza vaccines. As always, if you have any questions please call the State Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.

Age Group	Dosage	No. of Doses	Route
6-35 months	0.25 mL	1 or 2*	IM
3-8 years	0.50 mL	1 or 2*	IM or intranasal**
9 years and older	0.50 mL	1	IM or intranasal**

^{* 2} doses administered at least 1 month apart are recommended for children younger than 9 who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time or who received only one dose in their first year of vaccination.

^{**} intranasal administration of live attenuated influenza virus is only approved for children 5 years of age and older