



Pat Quinn, Governor
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.idph.state.il.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Illinois Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

From: Mark Amerson, VFC Program Administrator

Date: July 15, 2009

Re: Influenza (Flu) Vaccine Orders for 2009-2010

It is time again to order influenza vaccine through the VFC program. We would like to remind all providers to consider the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations prior to ordering vaccine. In 2008, ACIP expanded the routine annual vaccination to include all children aged 6 months through 18 years of age. We encourage providers to assure that these children receive protection with appropriately licensed vaccines.

We would also like to remind you that the Mercury Free Vaccine Act (P.A. 094-0614) became effective January 1, 2006. Some presentations of Influenza vaccine exceed the levels specified by the Act. Although the Department has filed an exemption for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, the Illinois VFC Program intends to comply with the terms of this Act by assuring that VFC eligible children under three (3) years of age receive only the preservative-free formulation of influenza vaccine unless product supplies are restricted.

The attached VFC Flu Vaccine Order Form will allow us to track doses of vaccine targeted for this age group. Provider Profile data will be reviewed to validate the request included in each order.

Please complete the attached VFC Flu Vaccine Order Form prior to August 1, 2009. You may mail the request to the IDPH Immunization Program at 525 West Jefferson, 1st Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62761, OR fax it to the IDPH Immunization Program at: (217)786-7506.

If you have any questions, you may reach the Illinois VFC program at (217) 786-7500 **OR** (800) 526-4372.