

Office of Immunization and Child Profile
FLU VACCINE UPDATE AND NOTICE OF PRE-BOOK PROCESS
November 2011

Immunization Partners:

This update includes information about vaccine availability for the current flu season, a request for your help to continue to promote flu vaccination, and plans for the 2012 – 2013 flu season.

We encourage flu vaccination for family members, health care workers and others in contact with infants or other vulnerable people. People with increased health risks from the flu and people who can't be vaccinated can be protected if the people around them are vaccinated.

Current Flu Season Vaccine News:

We've distributed more than 450,000 doses of childhood flu vaccine this season! Vaccine distribution this year started earlier than ever – with the first orders placed on August 1. There is still plenty of flu vaccine available for health care providers to order from the State Childhood Vaccine Program for patients less than 19 years of age. Place your order now for more flu vaccine to meet the needs of children in your practice.

We need your help to make sure all eligible children are offered flu vaccine.

- Remember, flu disease in our state usually peaks between January and March. Vaccinating kids now protects them over the holidays and during peak flu season.
- Kids less than 9 years of age getting flu vaccine for the first time need two doses of flu vaccine at least four weeks apart during this flu season.
- If a child younger than 19 comes in for any reason, check if they've been vaccinated against flu and offer vaccine to those who haven't.

Planning for Next Fall:

Although it might be hard to think about next year's flu season now, we must plan ahead to make sure there is enough flu vaccine available for all providers enrolled in the Childhood Vaccine Program.

The Department of Health and the Washington Vaccine Association (WVA) share the goal of making sure health care providers have enough flu vaccine available from the program for all children in their practices.

- **In December**, the department will ask providers to complete an online survey telling us the amount and types of flu vaccine they will need for the 2012 – 2013 flu season.
- We will use that data to determine the amount and types of flu vaccine to pre-book for the program.
- The WVA will include flu vaccines on the assessment grid for 2012 – 2013. We expect it will part of the WVA assessment grid every year. Thank you for your continued effort to bill using the new method for vaccines given to children with private health insurance.

For information about flu vaccine supply and distribution, please contact your local health agency or the Office of Immunization and Child Profile at 1-360-236-3595 – ask for a member of the Vaccine Management Team, or go to our website:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/vaccine/vaccine-supply.htm>

For information about the WVA and the dosage-based assessment billing method, please go to the WVA website at www@wavaccine.org or call 1-888-928-2224.

For more information about the recommendations for flu vaccination, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6033a3.htm>