

## It's not too late to vaccinate. Flu cases are on the rise and expected to peak in January or February.

This flu season has been relatively mild, but there has been an increase in flu activity in recent weeks. In addition, cases usually peak in January or February and flu activity could continue into April or May. Thus, the CDC recommends that providers continue to vaccinate patients as long as influenza is circulating in the community. Because this season's vaccine seems to be an excellent match to circulating strains, continuing to vaccinate should yield substantial protection against the flu.

## Enroll in the MedImmune replacement program to replace expiring FluMist® vaccine doses.

Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers may take advantage of MedImmune's FluMist® replacement program to receive replacement doses of VFC-supplied FluMist® vaccine with an expiration date between August 2010 and January 31, 2011. Qualifying doses returned directly to McKesson Specialty will be replaced with doses with a longer expiration date. All requests must be submitted by January 31, 2011. Visit [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org) for additional instructions.

## Additional flu vaccine doses are available for order by VFC providers.

VFC providers in need of additional flu vaccine for VFC-eligible patients may submit supplemental orders through the VFC's seasonal influenza vaccine ordering site at [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org). Requests for specific formulations, such as pre-filled syringes, will only be fulfilled if you have received your initial allocation of that formulation and all orders will be filled as supply permits. Providers not participating in the VFC Program may visit [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org) to learn how to enroll.

## Recall pediatric patients due for their second dose of flu vaccine.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that children 6 months through 8 years of age receive 2 doses of flu vaccine unless the child received: a) at least one dose of H1N1 vaccine in 2009-10 AND b) seasonal flu vaccine before 2009-10 OR 2 doses of seasonal vaccine in 2009-2010. (See page 34, [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5908.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5908.pdf).)

If you have not yet provided a second dose to all eligible children in your practice, consider recalling children due for their second dose. California Immunization Registry (CAIR) users may use the registry to identify children due for a second dose and to generate recall postcards. For assistance, CAIR users may call the Help Desk at (213) 351-7411.

## Use every visit as a chance to vaccinate.

Flu vaccines can be provided at many acute care visits and are not contraindicated for individuals with mild illnesses such as mild ear infections, colds, or low fevers. For a list of contraindications and precautions, visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications.htm).

A visit for a flu vaccination also offers a chance to vaccinate patients with other vaccines that are due. Because of the continuing pertussis epidemic, it is especially important to vaccinate eligible infants, children, teens, and adults against pertussis. Visit [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org) to download screening tools staff can use to identify vaccines that are due for your patients.

## Tools and Resources

### Patient and Staff Educational Materials

[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip)  
[www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org) and [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

### Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recs.

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm)

### Laminated Influenza & Pneumococcal Vaccination Pocket Guides

*Recommendations, contraindications and talking points*

[www.immunize.org/pocketguides/](http://www.immunize.org/pocketguides/)

### Subscribe to *Influenza Watch*

*Receive regular flu surveillance and related disease updates*

Email: [fluwatch@listserv.ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:fluwatch@listserv.ph.lacounty.gov)

### Immunization Training Sessions

[www.ph.lacounty.gov/ip/trainconf.htm](http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/ip/trainconf.htm)

### Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Enrollment Info.

[www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org)

### California Immunization Registry (CAIR)

*Identifies vaccine doses (including flu) that are due/overdue and generates patient & provider reminders*

[www.immunizelink.org](http://www.immunizelink.org) or (213) 351-7411

### Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS)

*List of flu vaccine manufacturers and distributors*

[www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/ivats\\_healthcare.asp](http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/ivats_healthcare.asp)

## Stay up-to-date with the latest information on the flu vaccine

Visit the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Immunization Program website at [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip) or contact the Immunization Program at 213-351-7800.

