

Blastfax

A Message From the Georgia VFC Program Regarding 2010-2011 Influenza Vaccine Needs

Your Response Is Needed

In the upcoming flu season (2010-2011) influenza 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.

The Georgia Immunization Program is making preparations for the 2010-2011 Flu Season. To help us prepare we are conducting a survey to aid in estimating influenza vaccine needs for VFC eligible patients in your care. We will use this information to determine the amount of 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.

This year we are conducting our survey via Survey Monkey, a web-based survey tool. To access and complete the survey type the following link into the internet address box:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PP9WTHM>. Once you access the survey, simply fill in required information on each page and follow screen prompts until you are complete. You may want to print completed survey for your records. If you don't have internet access to complete the survey please contact VFC.

The 2010-2011 Influenza Vaccine Survey must be completed for each provider expecting to receive a shipment of VFC influenza vaccine during the 2010-2011 Flu Season. **The survey must be completed by April 5, 2010.** A supply of influenza vaccine cannot be guaranteed for providers who do not complete this survey by 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 complete this survey. Any requests for influenza vaccine submitted to the VFC office after the deadline will be added to a waiting list.

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://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.

For questions or concerns regarding this blastfax or any other immunization information, please contact the Chapter's Immunization Coordinator, Mike Chaney at (404) 881-5094 or mchaney@gaaap.org.