



June 1, 2016

Dear Vaccines for Children Provider:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program has ordered influenza vaccine in preparation for the 2016-2017 Influenza Season. The influenza vaccine is for distribution to, State Health Centers, County-Municipal Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, and private VFC providers.

Distribution of the influenza vaccine will most likely begin in September or October. Ordering influenza vaccine will be done by paper form as in years past. DOH VFC staff will enter the influenza order in PA SIIS on behalf of each provider. To ensure that providers are able to obtain an adequate amount of vaccine, please indicate the number of anticipated doses on the *Influenza Vaccine Ordering Form* included with this letter.

Good news for offices with multiple influenza vaccine order requests for the upcoming 2016-2017 influenza season; you no longer need to include staggered shipment dates on the paper vaccine ordering form. **Any additional requests may be placed throughout the rest of the influenza season by completing and submitting a separate paper order.** This will ensure that your influenza order reflects the current needs of your practice while avoiding having to try to predict influenza vaccine needs several months ahead of time. As with every influenza season, orders will be completed based on the supply of vaccine available. (Note: Please make copies of the vaccine order form if you anticipate multiple requests).

Please submit your **prebooked** orders by **July 29, 2016**. Completed order forms for influenza vaccine may be emailed to paimmunizations@pa.gov or faxed to (717) 441-3777 or (717) 441-3800.

Influenza vaccine obtained through the Department may only be provided to those persons 6 months of age and older who are eligible to receive VFC vaccines.

The Influenza Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) that must be provided to each person receiving the influenza vaccine is located on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis. The most recent Influenza VIS is usually posted on this website by July.

Please direct any questions regarding influenza vaccine ordering to Connie Andescavage and clinical questions to Marilyn Black at (717) 787-5681.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy F.", is positioned above the typed name.

Cindy Findley, MSW
Director
Division of Immunizations

Enclosure